The yellow buckeye, *Aesculus octandra*, is very similar to and very closely related to the Ohio buckeye, *Aesculus glabra*. The two can easily be distinguished when fruiting, because the Ohio buckeye often has spines on the seed husk, while that of the yellow buckeye is smooth. The Ohio buckeye also has a skunky odor when twigs are scratched, while the yellow buckeye has a somewhat rank, but not skunky, odor. The Ohio buckeye tends to grow in more open and less acid environments, while the yellow buckeye tends to grow in more acid and wooded environments. It is usually not over 65 feet tall. The yellow buckeye also has attractive yellow flowers, and is generally very easy to grow. This tree has opposite, palmately-divided compound leaves, with usually five leaflets per leaf. The light-gray bark is unusual, often with scaly plates that look somewhat as if a large thumb were pressed into the bark, although sometimes the bark is quite smooth. This tree often loses its leaves in late summer. The yellow buckeye has large, flesh-colored winter buds. The name *Aesculus flava* is also used.

**Cultivation**
The yellow Buckeye will do well in most soils, especially moist, rich soils. Avoid very dry sites or hot, windy sites, because the leaves will tend to “scald.” It’s recommended that this species be transplanted in early spring. If transplanted in the fall, it should be watered during the winter. However, containered plants may be planted at any time. Hardy to USDA zone 4.