Psgan Yellowhorn

Xanthoceras sorbifolium ‘Psgan’

Soapberry Family (Sapindaceae)

Zones: 5-8

Full Sun to Partial Shade

Moderate Water

Location: Rose Garden

The Yellowhorn is a wonderful, small deciduous tree that is adaptable to various types of soil (loamy, clay or sandy) as long as well-drained. It is hardy and grows well in full sun or partial shade. It is a very versatile and useful tree that is also drought tolerant. It is originally from northern China and has dark green, feathery leaves that are almost fern-like. Its rate of growth is slow until it is established and then moderate.

In the spring it shows an amazing display of color with one inch blossoms formed in clusters on panicles that are 6-10 inches across. The flowers have silky white petals with yellow centers that change to maroon with age. The Yellowhorn blooms early to mid April and lasts approximately 10 days.

The seed capsules grow to the size of tennis balls, and house the seeds which are themselves only the size of peas. It is thought that when roasted, the seeds taste much like macadamia nuts. The seeds also contain a high percentage of oil, and have been grown for use as biodiesel.