

CALIFORNIA BUCKEYE

AESCULUS CALIFORNICA

THE MAGICAL CALIFORNIA BUCKEYE IS A LARGE SHRUB OR SMALL TREE AND AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE NATIVE ECOSYSTEM IN CALIFORNIA. ITS SPECTACULAR BLOSSOMS, REACHING UP TO A FOOT IN LENGTH, APPEAR IN SPRING, SHORTLY AFTER THE EXOTIC LOOKING PALMATELY COMPOUND LEAVES. SO ADAPTED IS THIS TREE TO THE CLIMATE IN WHICH IT EVOLVED THAT IT GOES DORMANT SHORTLY AFTER THE FLOWERS ARE POLLINATED AND THE LARGE, PLUM SIZED, "BUCKEYES" (FRUIT) APPEAR. DISROBED IN MIDSUMMER, IT REVEALS ITS SMOOTH SILVERY-GRAY BARK AND BEAUTIFUL FORM. ADDING TO THE MYSTERIOUSNESS OF THE PLANT, ALL PARTS OF IT ARE POISONOUS, INCLUDING THE POLLEN WHICH AFFECTS EXOTIC BEES BUT NOT OUR DWINDLING NATIVE BEE SPECIES, BUTTERFLIES, AND HUMMINGBIRDS, WHICH FEED ON IT GLADLY, TO NO EFFECT. TO 25'.

ZONES 6-10



SUN TO PART SHADE