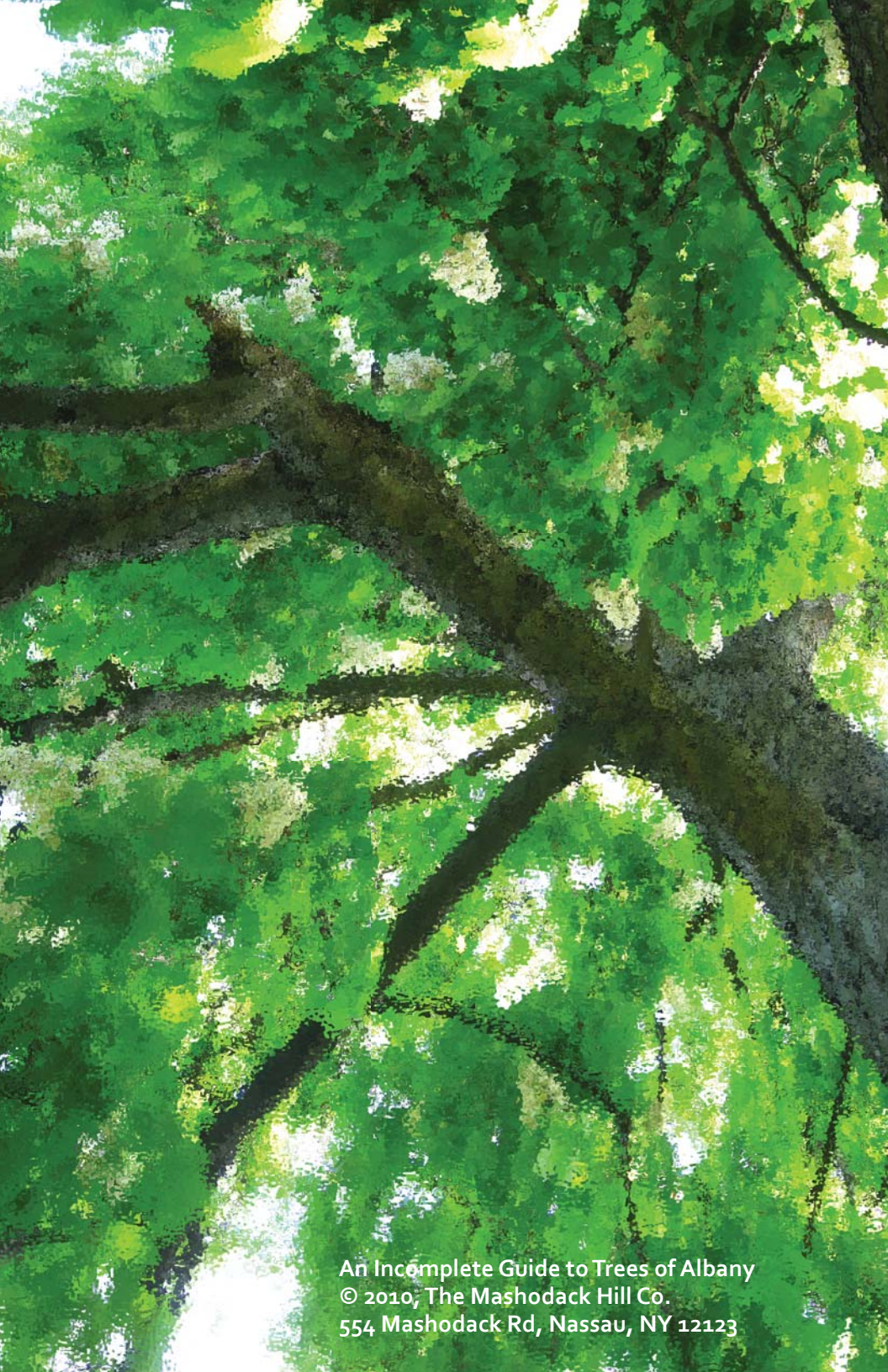


AN INCOMPLETE GUIDE TO
TREES OF ALBANY
SPRING & WINTER



An Incomplete Guide to Trees of Albany
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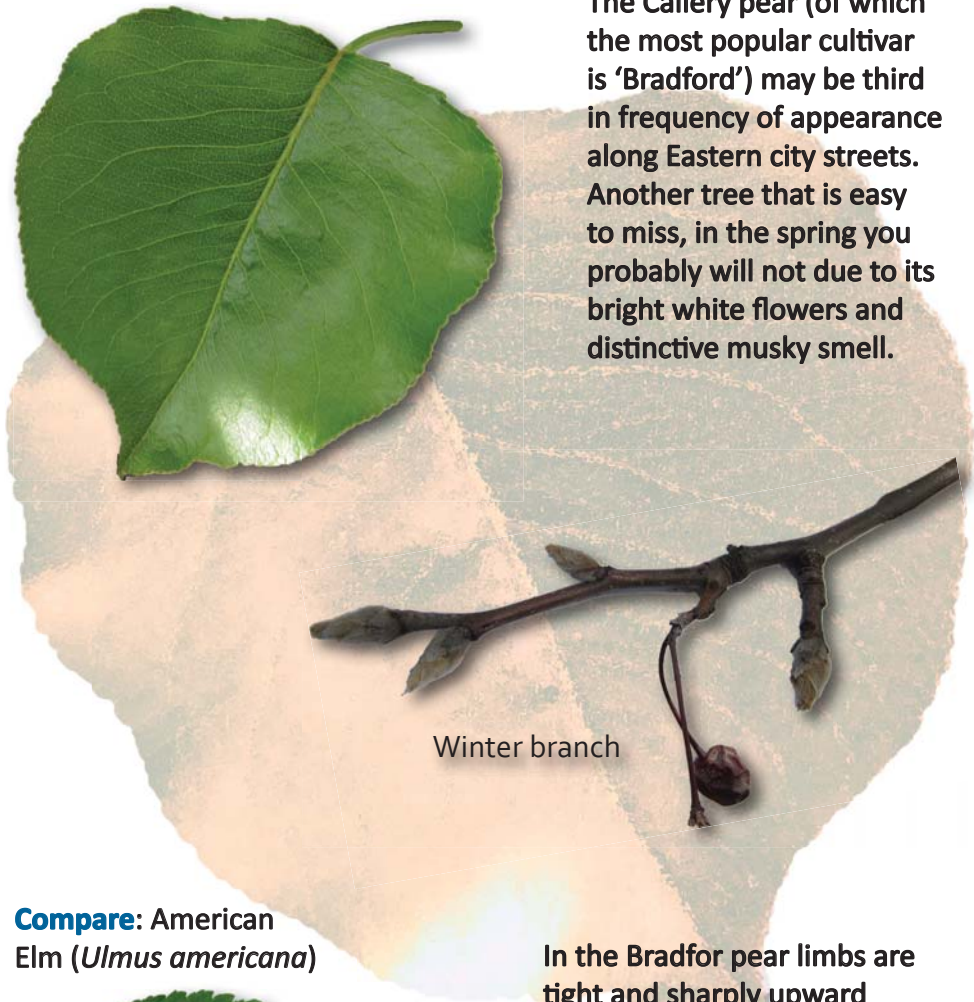
Albany and Her Trees



Callery Pear

Pyrus calleryana

The Callery pear (of which the most popular cultivar is 'Bradford') may be third in frequency of appearance along Eastern city streets. Another tree that is easy to miss, in the spring you probably will not due to its bright white flowers and distinctive musky smell.



Winter branch

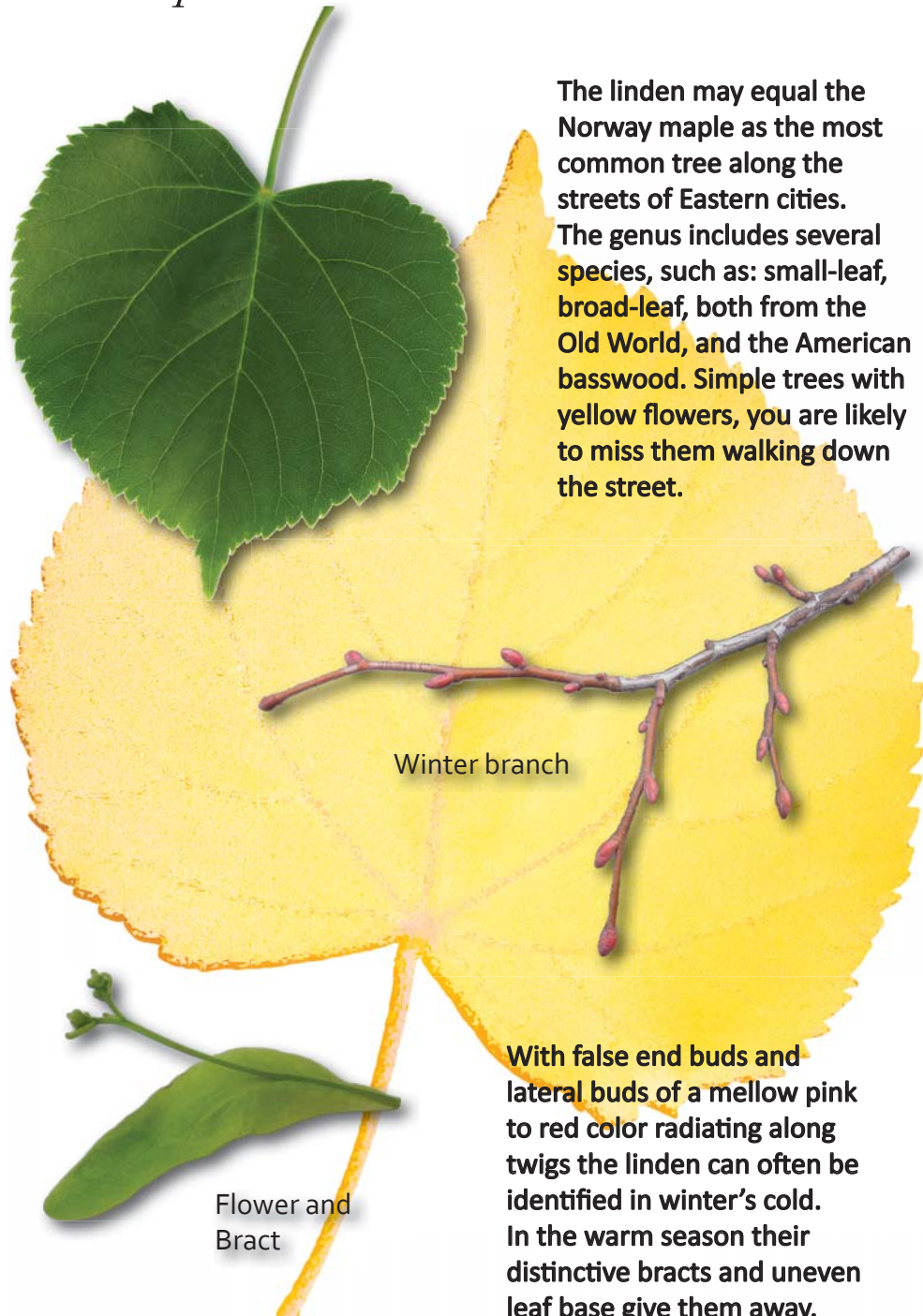
Compare: American Elm (*Ulmus americana*)



In the Bradford pear limbs are tight and sharply upward reaching, which sometimes leads these trees to 'explode' when they reach around 30 years of age. Winter buds are often fuzzy, and little miniature "pears" are often found dangling from their twigs into early spring.

Linden

Tilia sp.

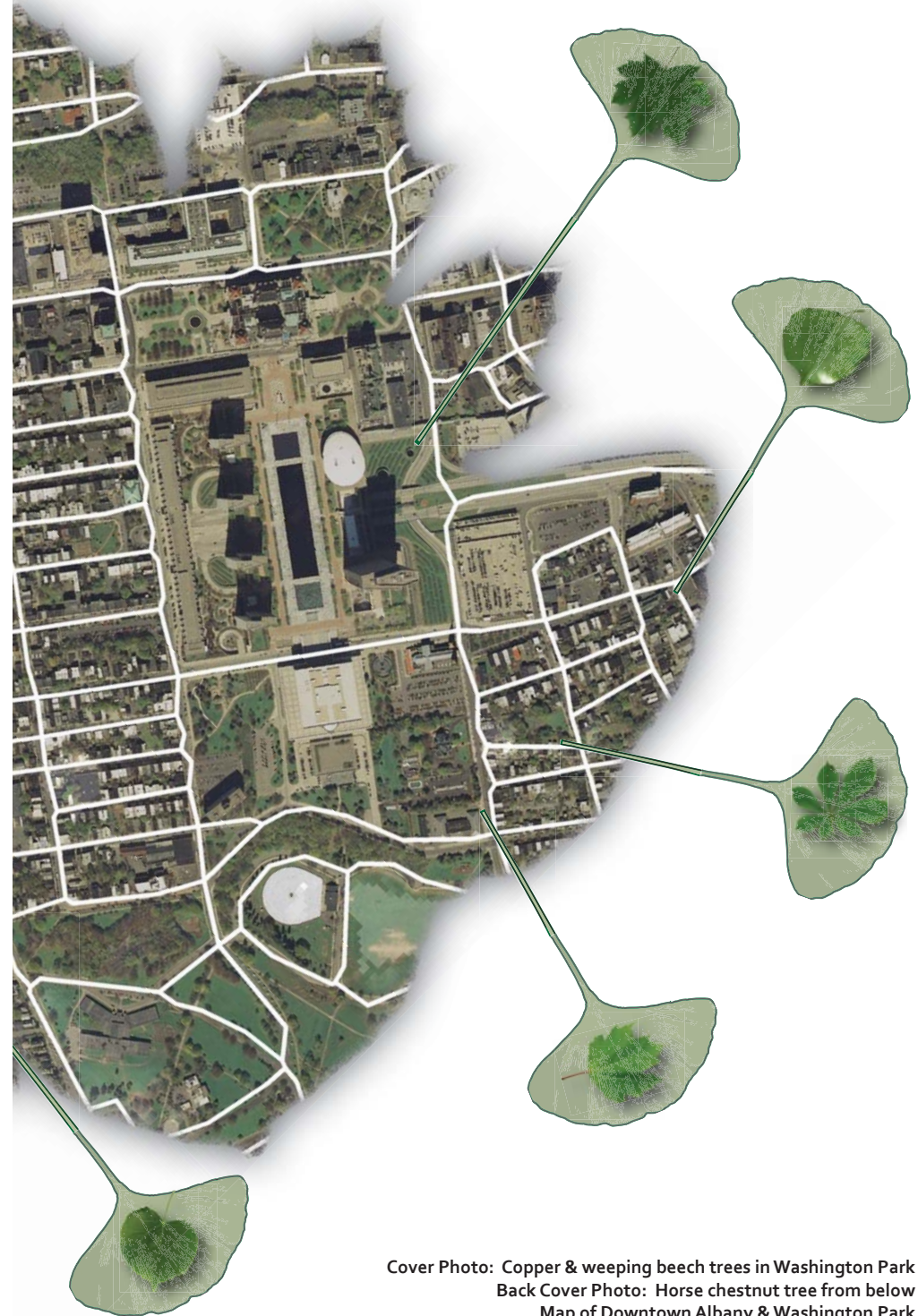


The linden may equal the Norway maple as the most common tree along the streets of Eastern cities. The genus includes several species, such as: small-leaf, broad-leaf, both from the Old World, and the American basswood. Simple trees with yellow flowers, you are likely to miss them walking down the street.

Winter branch

With false end buds and lateral buds of a mellow pink to red color radiating along twigs the linden can often be identified in winter's cold. In the warm season their distinctive bracts and uneven leaf base give them away.

Flower and Bract

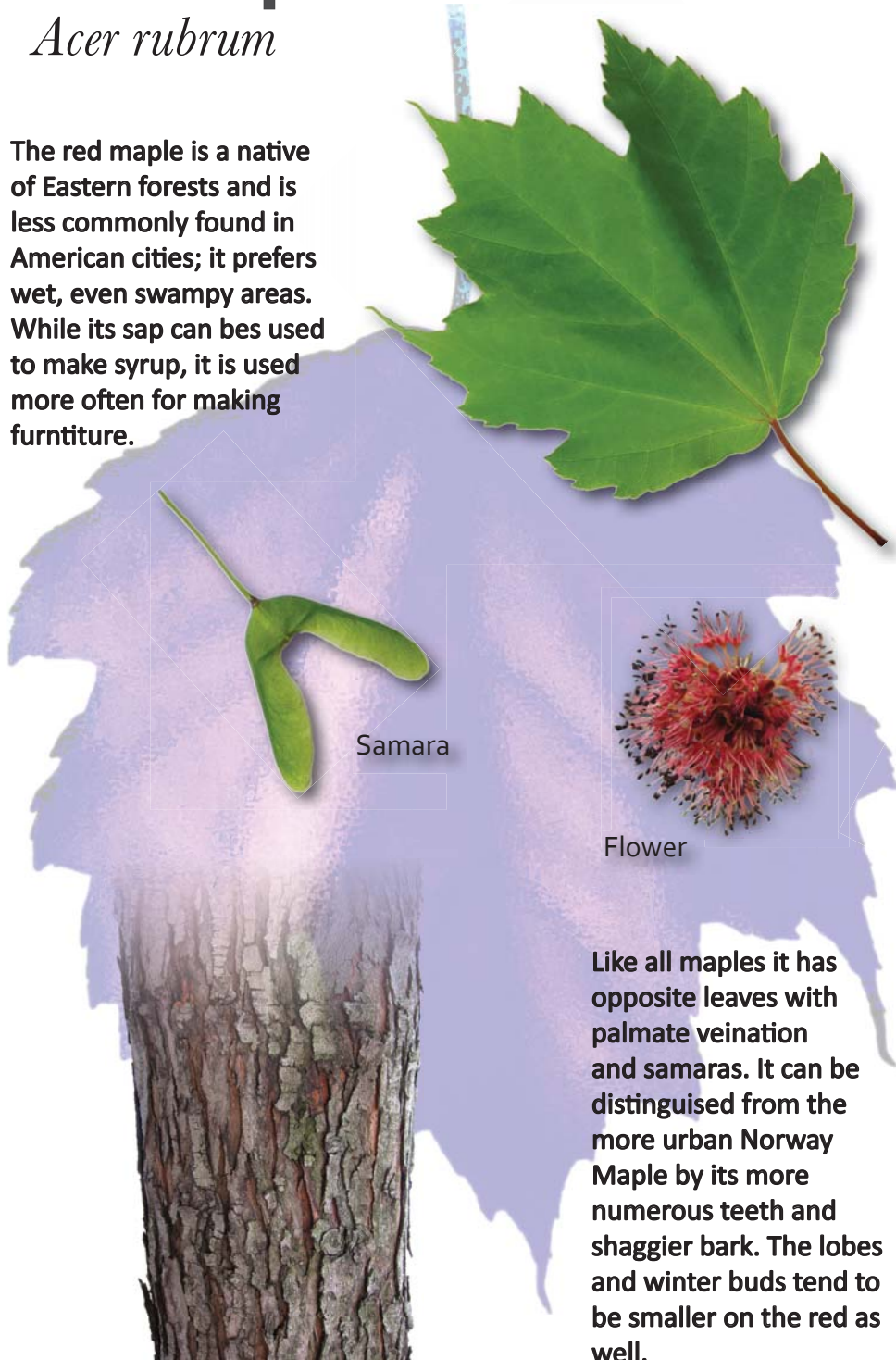


Cover Photo: Copper & weeping beech trees in Washington Park
Back Cover Photo: Horse chestnut tree from below
Map of Downtown Albany & Washington Park
Some facts courtesy of Simon & Schuster's

Red Maple

Acer rubrum

The red maple is a native of Eastern forests and is less commonly found in American cities; it prefers wet, even swampy areas. While its sap can be used to make syrup, it is used more often for making furniture.



Samara

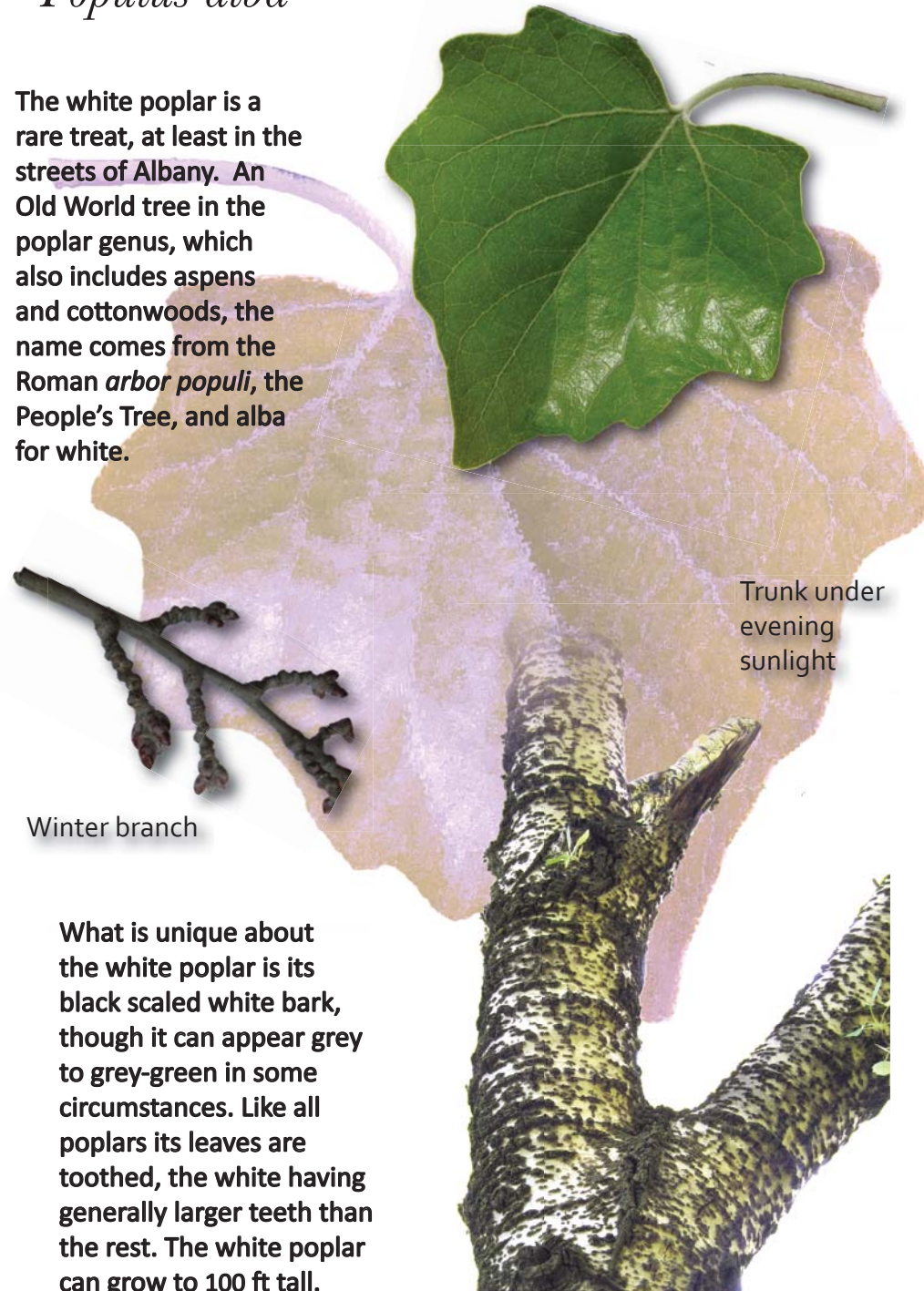
Flower

Like all maples it has opposite leaves with palmate venation and samaras. It can be distinguished from the more urban Norway Maple by its more numerous teeth and shaggier bark. The lobes and winter buds tend to be smaller on the red as well.

White Poplar

Populus alba

The white poplar is a rare treat, at least in the streets of Albany. An Old World tree in the poplar genus, which also includes aspens and cottonwoods, the name comes from the Roman *arbor populi*, the People's Tree, and *alba* for white.



Trunk under evening sunlight

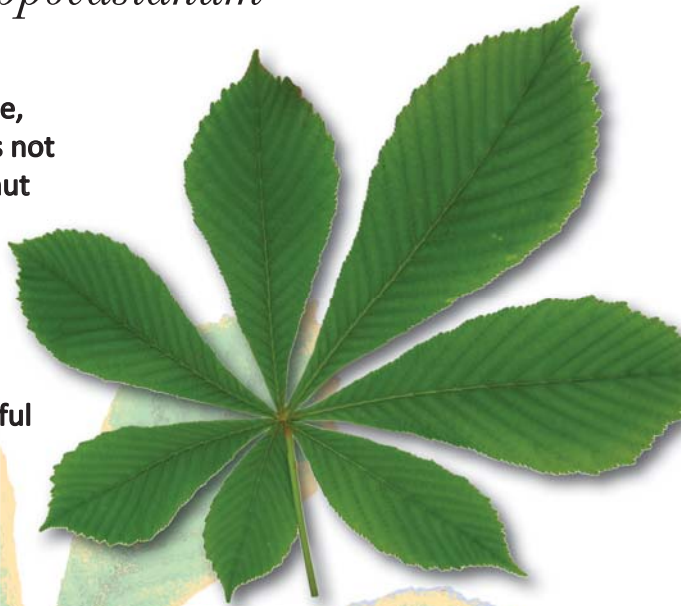
Winter branch

What is unique about the white poplar is its black scaled white bark, though it can appear grey to grey-green in some circumstances. Like all poplars its leaves are toothed, the white having generally larger teeth than the rest. The white poplar can grow to 100 ft tall.

Horse Chestnut

Aesculus hippocastanum

A world renowned tree, the horse chestnut is not related to the chestnut (*Castanea*), and in fact its nuts are poisonous, though not to horses. It has scraggly bark and produces beautiful cone flowers in the spring. It has a spiny nut shell with fewer spines than chestnuts.



Cone flower

Compare: Red Horse Chestnut (*A. x carnea*)



Norway Maple

Acer platanoides

The Norway maple is somewhat of a weed tree, found almost anywhere people live in large numbers. Planted along many city streets this tree is considered desirable and is quite good for climbing. It also comes in a few 'red' varieties.



Horizontal 'samara' is typical of Norways



One of several 'red' varieties



European Beech

Fagus sylvatica

The European beech is a common tree in Eastern parks, and in fact several varieties exist, such as: weeping, copper and fern leaf. Many of these can be found in Washington Park.



Beech trees have smooth grey bark, the European with a base that can be described as an “elephant’s foot”. Leaves are simple and toothed, and buds have a distinct “cigar” shape. The American Beech has longer leaves with more pronounced teeth.

Winter branch



Compare: American Beech (*F. americana*)

var 'Fern Leaf'



Bough of var 'Weeping' (*pendula*)



var 'Copper'

Characteristic grey bark among rain soaked trunk

