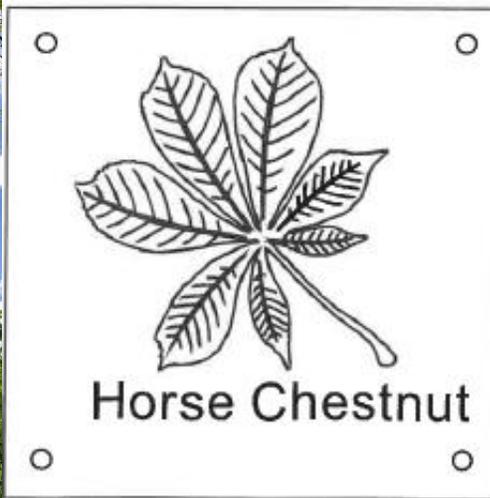


Horse Chestnut

(*Aesculus hippocastanum*)



The horse chestnut tree is famous for its shiny conkers used in traditional playground games. With its large, palmate leaves and candle-like white flowers, it's a springtime showstopper. Native to the Balkans, it was introduced to the UK in the 1600s and quickly became a popular ornamental addition to parklands and estates. Though its nuts aren't edible, extracts from the bark and seeds are used in herbal medicine. In folklore, horse chestnuts were carried for protection against rheumatism and bad luck.

Horse Chestnut

Extended Facts

- Horse chestnuts were introduced to the UK in the 1600s and became popular parkland trees.
- Famous for conkers, they produce large palmate leaves and candle-like flowers.
- They are susceptible to leaf-miner moth damage, affecting photosynthesis.

Curriculum-Linked Activities

- Conker science: test strength of conkers soaked in different solutions.
- Leaf-miner survey to record infestation severity.
- Tree-health monitoring exercise using observation sheets.

Useful Weblinks

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/british-trees/a-z-of-british-trees/horse-chestnut/>