



# Springboro Tree Farms

ENJOY THE SWEET LIFE!

## Osage Orange

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Maclura pomifera*

FAMILY: Moraceae

ORIGIN: North America

The scientific name for Osage orange is *Maclura pomifera*. It's also commonly known as, horse apple, hedge, or hedge apple tree. It is a small deciduous tree or large shrub, typically growing about 8 to 15 meters tall.



We had about a dozen of these in the area where we planted the apple orchard. So we removed them and then fought off the regrowth of these for 20 years! These are durable (hard to kill) trees that are not native to this neck of the woods.

The history here is that the Osage Orange was native to Missouri and Kansas and was introduced to Indiana in the mid to late 1700s and early 1800s for use as hedge fences.

The wood of this tree is amazingly hard and durable. Difficult to cut, and it burns hot and long.

If you have a wood-burning fireplace and enjoy the tradition of the Yule log, then Osage Orange is just the log you're looking for.

And to be clear – the Osage orange fruit is definitely not edible. In fact, most foraging animals will not eat them. Only squirrel and the deer will eat the tiny seeds inside, which is the only edible part.