

HORSE CHESTNUT (*Aesculus hippocastanum*)

A park tree rather than a woodland timber tree. Native of the Balkans, this tree is distinct from all others in our flora by reason of its large palmately compound leaves, the numerous leaflets spreading like the fingers of the hand. Distinguished in the winter by the large sticky buds, each with a horse-shoe-shaped scar beneath it. The leaves open early in April, and are followed early in June by beautiful clusters of white flowers, pollinated by insects.



If successfully pollinated a “conker” may result.

I have a single Horse Chestnut, which flowers; but does not produce conkers.

[1] “British Woodland Trees”, H L Edlin, 1949, p48.