American Yellowwood  
(*Cladrastis kentukea* (prior name *C. lutea*))

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**Summary:**
- Foliage: Deciduous broadleaf
- Height: 50 feet
- Spread: 55 feet
- Shape: Vase-shaped

This vase-shaped medium tree has smooth bark and showy white flowers in the spring. It is also quite drought and alkaline soil tolerant.

**Plant Needs:**
- Zone: 4 to 9
- Light: Partial shade to full sun
- Moisture: Moist to dry
- Soil Type: Sandy, loam, or clay loam
- pH Range: 4.5 to 8.0

**Functions:**
- Suggested uses for this plant include shade tree and specimen plant.

**Planting Notes:**
- Plant in well-drained, moist soil, preferably in full sun.
- Tolerates wide range of soil pH.

**Care:**
- Prune only in summer. Winter or spring pruning results in profuse bleeding. This species typically has a branch structure (tight branch angles) that results in limbs breaking from the tree. To avoid this, develop a good branch system in the tree’s early life; as the tree ages, remove about 10% of small branches every other year to lighten the load of the major branch system.
- Remove dead or damaged wood as soon as possible.

**Problems:**
- No serious disease or insect problems.

**Alternatives:**
- Consult garden centers, historic or public gardens and arboreta regarding cultivars and related species that grow well in your area.
- Cultivars of *Cladrastis kentukea* ‘Rosea’ (‘Perkins Pink’) is a pink flowered cultivar.

**Comments:**
- American yellowwood is a medium-sized tree with very showy, pendulous white, pea-like flowers in late spring.
- This species will bloom heavily every other year. Even in years of a light bloom, it is prized for its form and tolerance of adverse conditions.

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