

## Rockford Road™ London Planetree

*By Jennifer Podowski*

*Platanus X acerifolia 'Grejtn'*

Located inside the entrance of the Teaching Garden, the Rockford Road™ London Planetree has an interesting origin story. Mark Andrews, a grower at Greenleaf Nursery, explained on a December 8, 2018 segment of Oklahoma Gardening that John Nickel, one of the owners of Greenleaf, found the London Planetree in Tulsa. More specifically, the tree was selected from trees planted in front of Philbrook Museum on; you guessed it, Rockford Road. Mark explained the reason this tree was selected by Greenleaf was due to the solid white bark all the way down to the ground. London Planetrees get some white bark, but not as showy as the Planetrees on Rockford Road.



*London Planetrees in front of Philbrook Museum*

It is easy to confuse a London Planetree with an American Sycamore. Below is a list of the differences between the two trees.

### **Leaves**

- Sycamore – Leaf doesn't have a lot of indentations on lobes.
- London Planetree – Leaf has deeper lobe cuts between lobes.

### **Seed Ball**

- Sycamore – Single seed ball is produced on a stalk.
- London Planetree – Seed balls are produced in pairs.

### **Size**

- Sycamore will grow larger than the London Planetree, but both are rapidly growing trees.

The London Planetree requires a lot of room in the landscape. It will grow between 75 to 100 feet in height and 80 to 100 feet in width. It is tolerant of a wide range of soils but prefers a moist, rich, well-drained soil. The thick, stiff leaves are bright green in the summer and bright golden-yellow in autumn.