

COMMON NAME:
WESTERN SOAPBERRY

SCIENTIFIC NAME:
SAPINDUS SAPONARIA

ALSO CALLED: SOAPBERRY, WINGLEAF SOAPBERRY, FLORIDA SOAPBERRY, AND WILD CHINABERRY

FLOWER COLOR: WHITE
FLOWER ARRANGEMENT: IN BUNCHES AT END OF BRANCHES
FLOWERING TIME: MARCH TO APRIL
LEAVES: ON STEMS BROAD AND ELONGATED WITH POINTS
OBSERVABLE FRUIT: YELLOW ROUND FRUITS
NORMAL SIZE: UP TO 40'
EDIBLE OR NOT: VERY POISONOUS
NORMAL ELEVATION: 2000' TO 5000'
HABITATION: ROADSIDES AND DRY STREAMBEDS
ABUNDANCE: RARE

NOTABLE DETAILS: TREE WITH MANY ELONGATED LEAVES AND BRANCHES ENDING IN LARGE FLOWER BUNDLES WHICH BECOME UNIQUE FRUITS THAT LOOK TO BE ALMOST CLEAR YELLOW BALLS ABOUT THE SIZE OF MARBLES.

SPECIAL INTEREST: THE FRUITS ARE VERY POISONOUS, SO MUCH SO, THAT IT IS SAID THAT INDIANS WOULD THROW A HAND FULL INTO STREAMS AND THE FISH WOULD BE PARALYZED AND FLOAT TO THE TOP.