

Peeling Sycamore Tree Bark is Normal

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Q. We have a large sycamore tree in our yard. Every summer it sheds its bark over a few weeks' time. I think as it grows it is growing new bark and losing the old bark. Am I correct? - J.C., Walton, Ind.

A. You're on the right track. Peeling bark is normal, and is a key ornamental characteristic for a sycamore, also known as American planetree. The bark starts out a bit gray-brown and as the bark matures, the outer layer peels off in large sheets to reveal a lighter-colored, creamy, off-white inner layer. The result appears a bit like a camouflage pattern. No need to worry - the tree is not harmed by the peeling bark.



Sycamore bark peels off in sheets.



Sycamore trunk patchy bark resembles camouflage pattern.



Close up shows patchy bark pattern on sycamore trunk

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