

# What's That Bloomin' Thing

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Master Garden Trainee Class of 2018



# Ginkgo

By Russ Bruzee







## Scientific classification



Kingdom: [Plantae](#)

Division: [Ginkgophyta](#)

Class: [Ginkgoopsida](#)

Order: [Ginkgoales](#)

Family: [Ginkgoaceae](#)

Genus: ***Ginkgo***

**Species:** †[Ginkgo adiantoides](#), †[Ginkgo apodes](#),  
[Ginkgo biloba](#), †[Ginkgo cranei](#), †[Ginkgo digitata](#),  
†[Ginkgo dissecta](#), †[Ginkgo gardneri](#), †[Ginkgo ginkgoidea](#), †[Ginkgo huolinensis](#), †[Ginkgo huttonii](#),  
†[Ginkgo yimaensis](#).

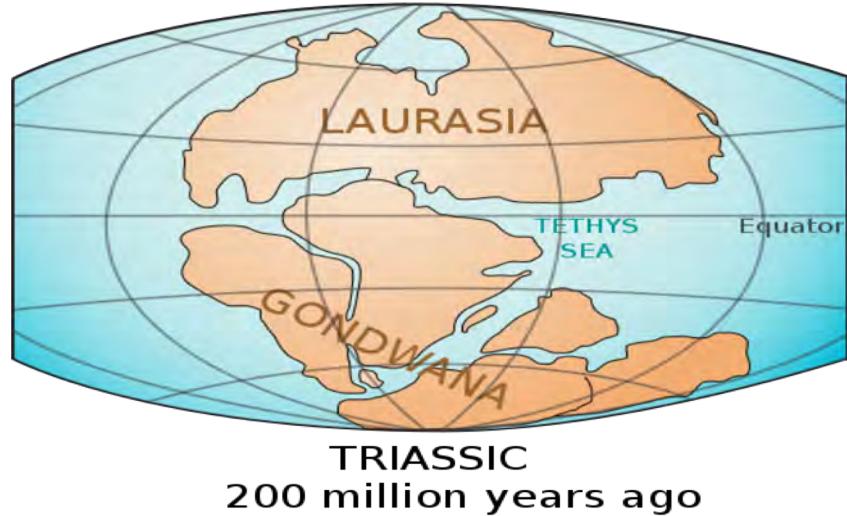
Ginkgo is the only living species in the division Ginkgophyta, all other being extinct.

## Conservation status: Endangered

Known as a “[living fossil](#)”, because Ginkgoales other than *G. biloba* are not known from the fossil record after the [Pliocene, 2.58 million years ago](#).



*Ginkgo biloba* leaf from the [Eocene](#) epoch from the [Mcabee fossil beds, BC](#), Canada.



[Laurasia](#) during the middle [Jurassic](#) and [Early Cretaceous](#).

Native to China, Ginkgo may be extinct in the wild. There are two locations that could be native stands but one of them has recently been described as trees planted in rows.

Eaten by: **Supersaurus, Lambeosaurus**

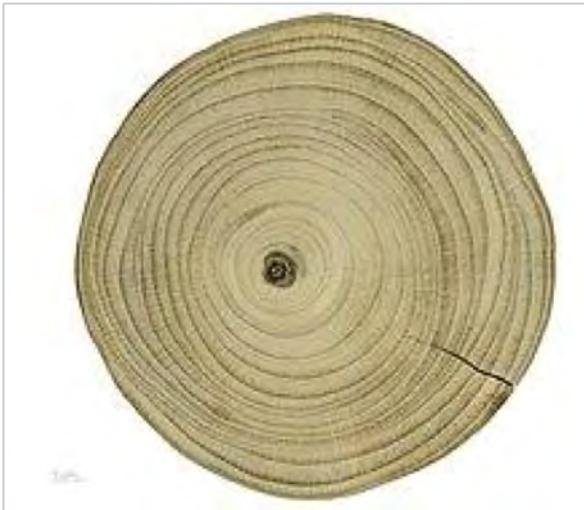


Supersaurus is a genus of diplodocid sauropod dinosaur first discovered in late Jurassic period rocks of the middle Morrison Formation of Colorado in 1972, and later in Portugal under the name *S. lourinhanensis*.

Lived: 157.3 million years ago - 145 million years ago ([Kimmeridgian](#) - [Tithonian](#)), Length: 110 – 110 ft.,

Mass: 66,000 – 220,000 lbs, Scientific name: *Supersaurus* (Super lizard), Eats: [Maidenhair tree](#),

[Puzzleglass](#)



*Ginkgo biloba* cross section of tree trunk  
(source: [Muséum de Toulouse](#))

A combination of resistance to disease, insect-resistant wood and the ability to form **aerial roots** and sprouts makes ginkgos long-lived, with some specimens claimed to be more than 2,500 years old.

The oldest Sequoia is over are 3500 years old

Great Basin bristlecone pine (*Pinus longaeva*) in the White Mountains of California is 5,062 years old. (source: Rocky Mountain [Tree-Ring Research Group](#) Tree-Ring Research Group)



## The stairway was built around an Atomic Bomb survivor

This Ginkgo situated near a temple about 1130 m away from the hypocenter appeared to bud after the blast (the temple itself was destroyed).

In 1994 it was decided to leave it there and adjust the temple to it, so now the main building has stairs in front divided into left- and right hand sides, protecting the Ginkgo inside this U-shape.

Estimated planting 1850



Pollen cones

Ovules



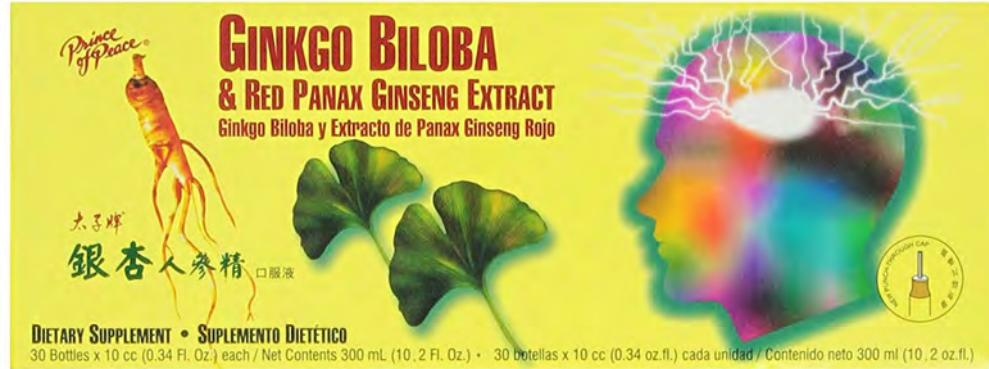


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## Dietary supplement

The first use as a medicine is recorded in the late 15th century in China; among western countries, its first registered medicinal use was in Germany in 1965. Despite use, controlled studies do not support the extract's efficacy for most of the indicated conditions.

Although extracts of Ginkgo biloba leaf sold as dietary supplements may be marketed to improve cognitive function, there is no scientific evidence for effects on memory or attention in healthy people.



Ginkgo extract has also been studied as a possible treatment for cognitive impairment in [Alzheimer's disease](#), but there is no good evidence for it having any effect.

Systematic reviews of clinical trial results have shown there is no scientific evidence for effectiveness of ginkgo in treating [high blood pressure](#), [menopause](#)-related cognitive decline, [tinnitus](#), post-stroke recovery, [peripheral arterial disease](#), [macular degeneration](#), or [altitude sickness](#).















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