

A close-up photograph of several Ginkgo biloba leaves. The leaves are a vibrant green color and have a distinctive fan-like shape with a deeply bilobed margin. They are attached to thin, dark brown stems. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting more foliage.

Ginkgo biloba

A Living Fossil

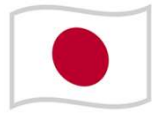
Min Shan
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Class of 2023

The “Silver Apricot” from China



银杏

yin xing



银杏

ginkgo



Biloba

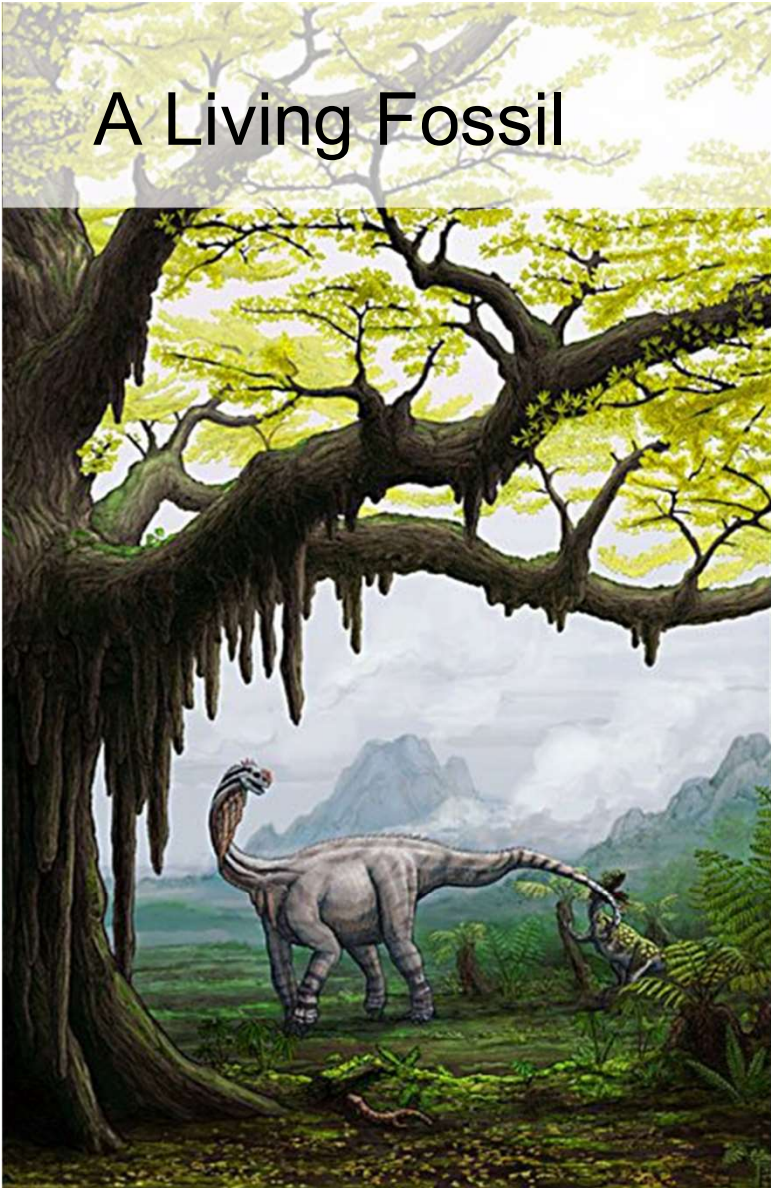
Latin

“Two-lobed”

AKA “Maidenhair Tree”



A Living Fossil



- One of the oldest living tree species in the world.
- The sole survivor of an ancient group of trees that date back to before dinosaurs roamed the Earth.
- Fossils date back more than 200 million years.

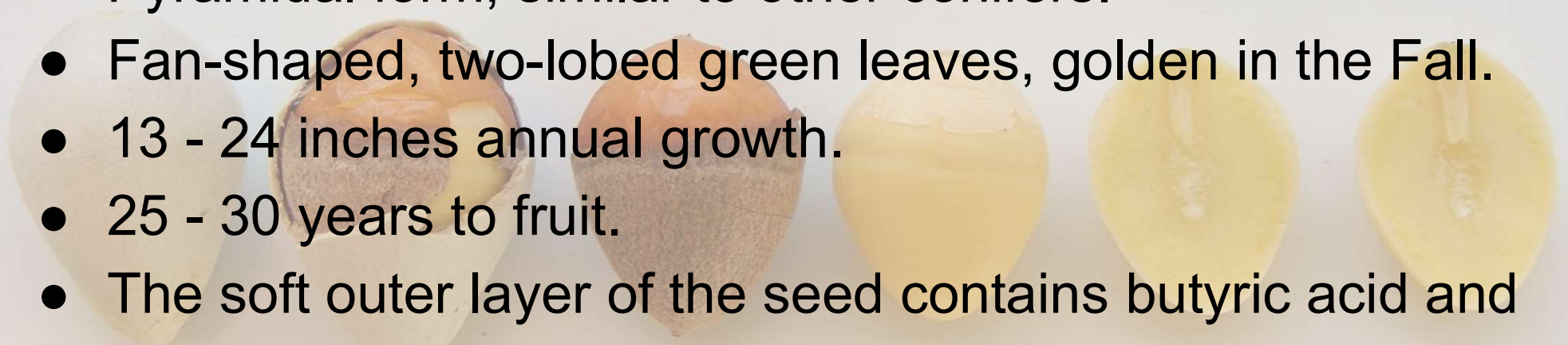
Unique Classifications

Order:	Ginkgoales
Family:	Ginkgoaceae
Genus:	<i>Ginkgo</i>
Species:	<i>G. biloba</i>
Pollination:	Dioecious
Seed-bearing:	Gymnosperm
Venation:	Dichotomous
Domency:	Deciduous



Characteristics

- Pyramidal form, similar to other conifers.
- Fan-shaped, two-lobed green leaves, golden in the Fall.
- 13 - 24 inches annual growth.
- 25 - 30 years to fruit.
- The soft outer layer of the seed contains butyric acid and smells like animal defecation.
- The Ginkgo nuts contains MPN (also known as ginkgotoxin). Must be cooked to eat.





Resilience

- Grow in full sun or part shade.
- Tolerate many soil types and conditions.
- Pests & diseases: caterpillars, nematodes & leaf scorch.
- Rarely suffer from these.
- Withstand high temperatures and air pollution.
- Resistant to wind and fire, even survived from atomic bombing.
- It can grow nearly 100 feet tall and live as long as 3,000 years.



Conservation and Cultivation

- *Ginkgo biloba* is Endangered and Critically Imperiled.
- Rare in the wild with only a few natural populations in China.
- Cultivated maidenhair trees are seen throughout the world today.
- Often planted as street or lawn trees. Male trees are preferred and selected via DNA test.

Culinary and Culture Values

- A delicacy in Eastern Asia cuisine, also used in traditional medicine.
- Leaf extract used as a dietary supplement in the modern age, but lack of scientific proof.
- Important in the culture of China, Japan and Korea, viewed as a sacred tree and a symbol of resilience, health and longevity.
- The fan-shaped leaf is so beautiful and unique, it became a recognizable motif.





Living fossil

True legend

Humble giant