Skinny Latte™ Kentucky Coffeetree
*Gymnocladus dioicus* ‘Morton’

The Skinny Latte™ Kentucky coffeetree is a superior selection of a durable and handsome tree native to the midwestern and upper southern United States. Skinny Latte™ was notably selected for its tightly fastigiate branching that forms an attractive and useful columnar tree in the landscape. When graced by the late-emerging, large, compound leaves the species is known for, it forms a slender and uniform oval silhouette all summer, followed by the golden fall color known in the species. Since it is a male clone, there is no messy fruit to clean up. The tight branching and furrowed bark lend it stark winter interest. This is a stunning selection of a resilient, native tree sure to thrive long into the future. Selected and developed by The Morton Arboretum, Lisle, Illinois.
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Botanical Name
Gymnocladus dioicus ‘Morton’

Common Name
Skinny Latte™ Kentucky coffeetree

Family
Fabaceae

Origin
The Skinny Latte™ Kentucky coffeetree is a chance seedling selected and clonally propagated by The Morton Arboretum in 1968. Four of the original clones were planted in the arboretum nursery and are the source for all the trees in the market today.

Hardiness
USDA Zones 4-8.

Bloom Season
The panicles of ¾-inch, white, fragrant flowers bloom in late spring soon after the leaves have flushed out and are relatively insignificant.

Plant Habit
When young, this tree is just as awkward as any Kentucky coffeetree, but it ages with grace, forming a narrowly fastigiate and columnar habit at maturity with symmetrical and dense branching. Branching is somewhat tighter toward the base, resulting in a tapered form from top to bottom.

Growth Rate and Size
The mature, clonal specimens measure approximately 50 feet tall by 20 feet wide at about 50 years of age. Like the species, this is a moderately slow grower that requires some patience. It is well worth the wait.

Ornamental Characteristics
In the spring and summer, the enormous compound leaves composed of many tiny leaflets create a soft texture in the landscape. Its foliage remains green all summer, with no pest or disease issues. Fall color is the glowing gold the species is known for. The coarse and furrowed bark on this columnar selection creates architectural and textural interest in the winter landscape. Since it is a male selection, there is no messy fruit to clean up in the landscape.

Culture
Broadly adaptable and resilient, this tree can handle a broad range of pH and moisture, making it an ideal selection for cities and suburban developments.

Pest and Disease Problems
None

Landscape Value
Its adaptability, columnar habit, and lack of fruit make it an ideal street planting tree, as well as valuable for larger landscapes such as parks, golf courses, and other urban settings. Use as a substitute for ash trees lost to emerald ash borer and to replace invasive species such as Norway maple and tree of heaven. While slow-growing, this tree could prove valuable as a windbreak in the midwestern and Plains states.

Propagation
Budded onto Gymnocladus dioicus seedling rootstock

Chicagoland Grows® is a nonprofit corporation of the Chicago Botanic Garden, The Morton Arboretum, and the Ornamental Growers Association of Northern Illinois (OGA). The Chicagoland Grows® Plant Introduction Program is dedicated to the evaluation, selection, production, and marketing of recommended and new plant cultivars. Plants selected for the program have proven to be adaptable to the Midwest and are made available to the commercial and retail landscape industry through an international network of growers and propagators.

For more information about Chicagoland Grows®, contact the Plant Introduction Program, Chicago Botanic Garden 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, IL 60022 (847) 835-8309 jault@chicagobotanic.org chicagolandgrows.org/index.php

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