

The spiny orange - we used to throw the fruit at each other as kids and call them stink bombs.

The Urth list — 9 messages, 3 voices, 03 Nov 2009

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/5505>

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Herbert, Joseph — 03 Nov 2009, 18:29

The spiny orange of Able's bow. Wolfe has a hand carved walking stick of osage orange - carved by Joe Mayhew. *Maclura pomifera*

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Osage-orange, Horse-apple or Bois D'Arc even know as the Drewedic Bullochus (*Maclura pomifera*) is dioecious [plant species](#), with male and female flowers [on different plants](#). It is a small deciduous [tree](#) or large shrub [, typically growing to 8-15 metres \(26-49 ft\) tall](#). The fruit [, a multiple fruit](#) [, is roughly spherical, but bumpy, and 7-15 cm in diameter, and it is filled with a sticky white latex sap](#) [. In fall, its color turns a bright yellow-green and it has a faint odor similar to that of oranges](#) [. \[1\] <> The Osage-orange is commonly used as a tree row windbreak in prairie states, which gives it one of its colloquial names, "hedge apple". The trees acquired the name bois d'arc, or "bow-wood", from early French settlers who observed the wood being used for war clubs and bow-making by Native Americans](#) [. \[3\] <> Meriwether Lewis was told that the people of the Osage Nation "esteem the wood of this tree for the making of their bows, that they travel many hundred miles in quest of it." Many modern bowyers assert the wood of the Osage Orange is superior even to English Yew for this purpose, though this opinion is by no means unanimous. The trees are also known as "bordarch" trees, most likely originating from a corruption of "bois d'arc."](#)

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brunians at brunians.org — 03 Nov 2009, 19:41 · in reply to Herbert, Joseph

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brunians at brunians.org — 03 Nov 2009, 19:47 · in reply to brunians at brunians.org

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Jerry Friedman — 04 Nov 2009, 00:15 · in reply to brunians at brunians.org

Do you have any basis for that extremely strange claim about dioecious plants? Is there even a single example?

Jerry Friedman

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brunians at brunians.org — 04 Nov 2009, 00:17 · in reply to Jerry Friedman

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Jerry Friedman — 04 Nov 2009, 00:24 · in reply to brunians at brunians.org

Then would you mind elaborating on those reasons? An example of such a plant would be helpful.

I'll give an example of why I doubt it: all willows are dioecious, and very few have been cultivated.

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brunians at brunians.org — 04 Nov 2009, 00:40 · in reply to Jerry Friedman

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I would have to modify my statement in light of that knowledge. I have no doubt that you are correct when you say this,

Some plants that have male and female flowers on separate stems seem to be ancient cultivars. These plants tend to be useful for food, drugs, as material for making tools etc. Good examples include cannabis and osage orange.

I have to say that while this makes sense to me, I don't expect it to make sense to everybody. I have some ideas about history and deep history that are seriously at variance with the versions generally accepted these days, though (coincidentally or not) they are basically the same as Gene Wolfe's views on the same subjects. I do not know whether he agrees with my opinion expressed above: I hope to ask him some time. I suspect that he does or would.

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Jerry Friedman — 04 Nov 2009, 06:16 · in reply to brunians at brunians.org

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any
transaction or
matter. This legend has been
affixed
to
comply with U.S.
Treasury Regulations governing
tax
practice. _____