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The leaves are finely saw-toothed, lance shaped about 2-3 inches long. The veins are more pronounced toward the center of the glossy green leaf.

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Oxydendron arboreum

Sourwood

Sorrel-tree

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Oxydendron arboreum

Sourwood

Sorrel-tree



The flowers are bell-like blossoms standing on 7-10 inch long clusters of drooping stems. Reminiscent of the Lily-of-the-valley or Andromeda this is one of the few trees which blooms in mid-summer.

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The bark is thick and scaly. The tree will grow straight up to 50 feet tall and varies from a compact almost conical shape to a gracefully spreading ornamental.

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Oxydendron arboreum

Sourwood

Sorrel-tree

Oxydendron arboreum

Sourwood

Sorrel-tree

It is the sour taste of the foliage which gives this tree its Latin and common name. Because of its hearty spring green, its showy blossoms, its autumn red, and its interesting fruit which remains winter-long, the sourwood is a popular ornamental.

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