

Forsythia blooms early in the spring.

Bright yellow, bell-shaped flowers stand out from arching or upright branches.

Forsythia is a deciduous shrub.

Deciduous means it loses all its leaves every fall. A shrub is a plant with several woody stems.

# Forsythia

*Forsythia x intermedia*

For-SITH-ee-ah BY in-ter-MED-ee-ah

# Red Maple

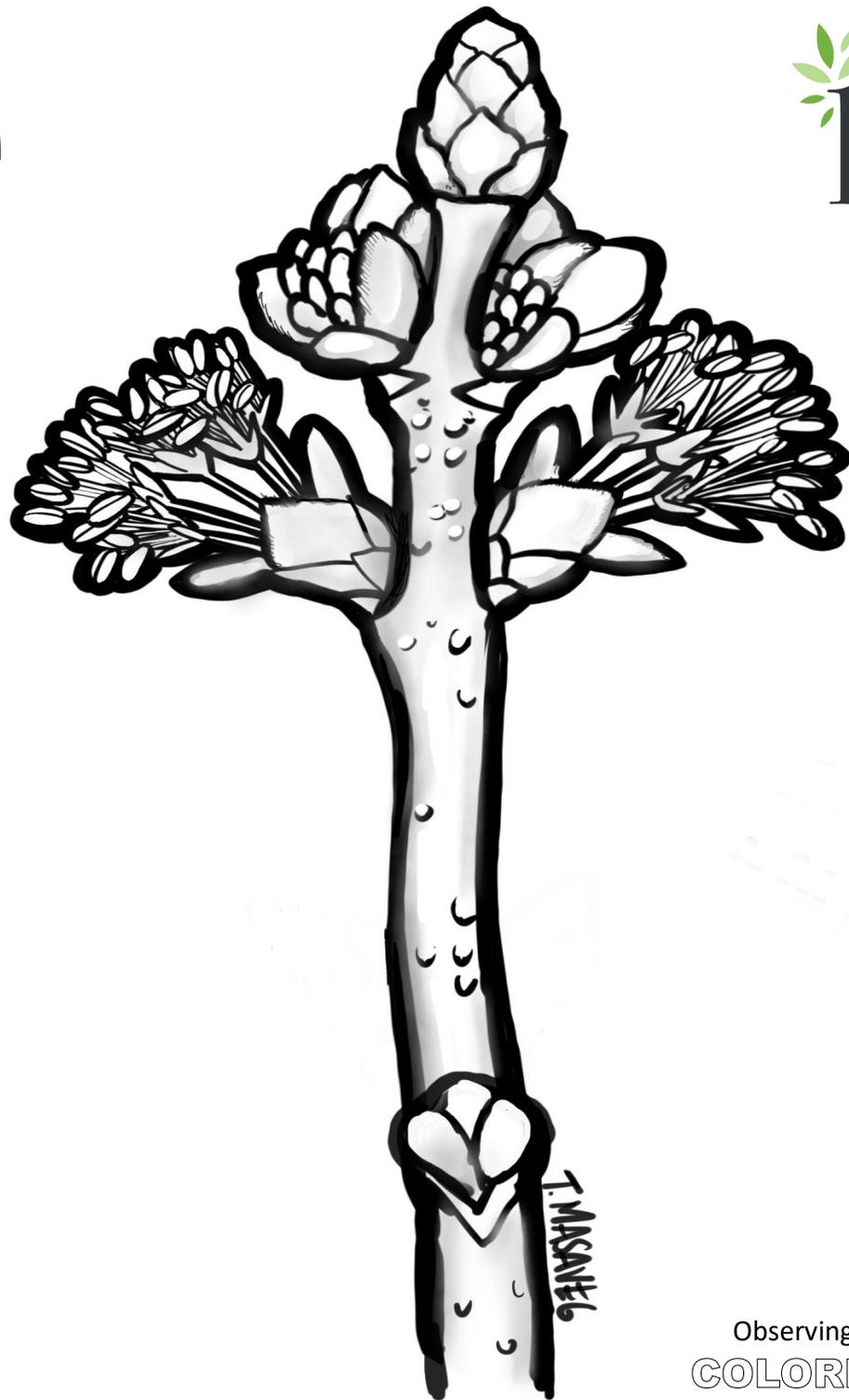
## *Acer rubrum*

AY-ser ROO-bruhm

Red maple is a deciduous tree, which means it dropped its red leaves last autumn. This tree had red twigs and buds through the winter. Now that it is spring, the red maple has vibrant red flowers!

**Flowers:** Red maple is one of the first trees to flower in the spring. Flowers are showy and red.

**Bark:** Grey-brown bark. Bark that is older has fissures (cracks), or plates.



# Magnolia

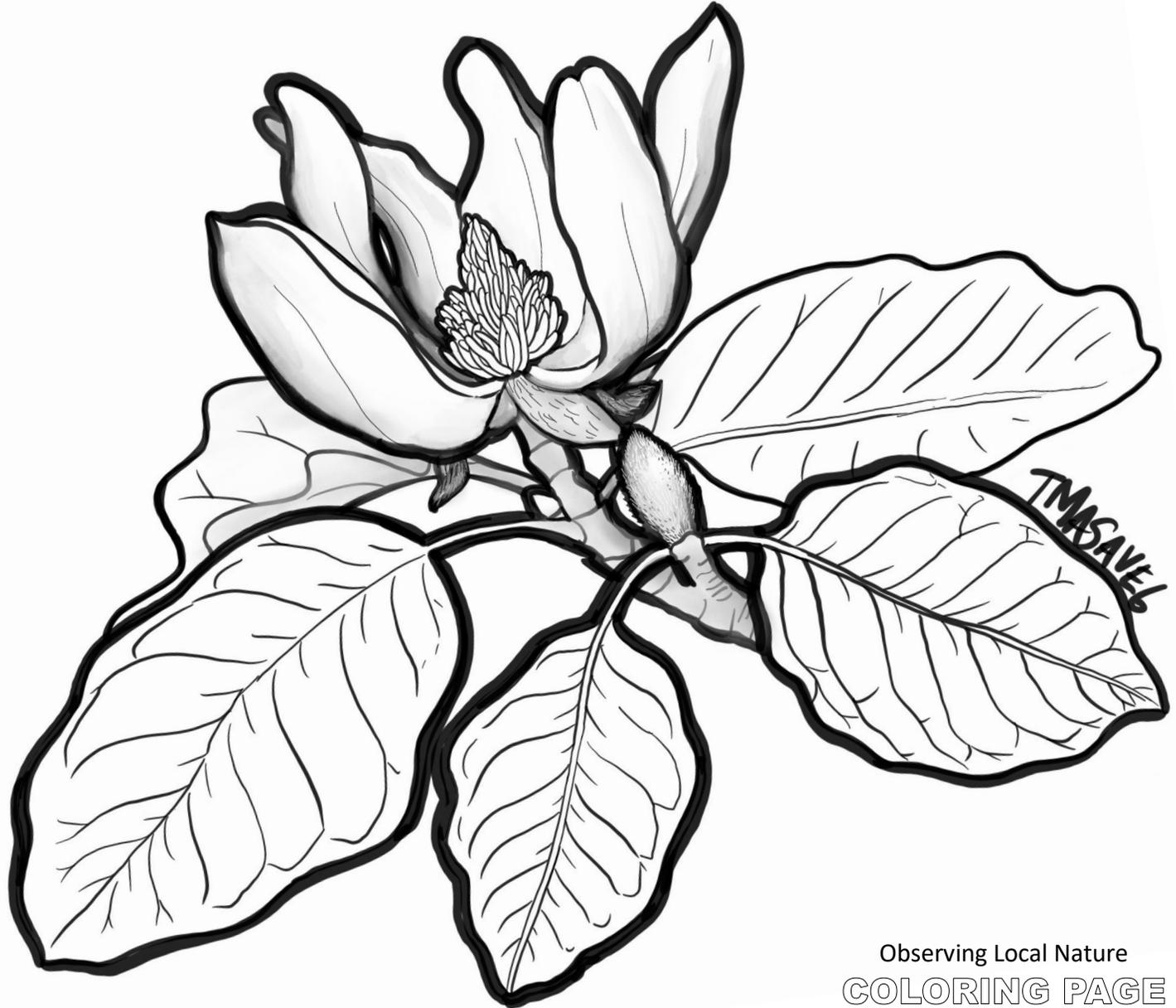
## *Magnolia liliiflora*

mag-NO-lee-ah lil-lee-FLOR-uh

In spring, fragrant purple or pinkish-white flowers are blooming, and this tree will wear green leaves through the summer.

The leaves will change to a golden yellow as the summer fades. Deciduous means that come autumn, it's time for a change – the lily magnolia will let its leaves fall to the ground.

Once the leaves are gone, all that is left through the winter is smooth, gray-brown bark and buds covered in a fuzzy coating. Just like fur on a dog or your sweater in the winter, these hairs help to protect the buds from the cold all winter.



# Cherry

## *Prunus*

PROO-nuhs

Cherry trees are known for their fragrant, showy pink blossoms in the spring, green leaves and fruit through summer, and brightly-colored leaves in the fall.

Cherry trees grow a type of fruit called a drupe.

This means that a single seed is housed inside a shell (also called a pit), which is surrounded by pulp and an outer covering (also called skin).

From the outside in, that would be:  
skin layer → pulp layer → pit/shell → seed.  
Other examples of drupes include plums, peaches, and pecans.



# Daffodil

## *Narcissus*

Nar-SIS-suhs

The daffodil grows from a bulb. A bulb is an underground storage structure that contains all the parts the plant will grow in spring – the roots, shoots, leaves, and flowers.

Some bulb plants are not grown for their flowers. For example, many people grow onions in order to eat the bulb, not for the flower!

Daffodils start to bloom in March and April. Many people are familiar with the showy yellow bloom – bright yellow petals around a trumpet-shaped center called a corona, which means “crown.”

Observing Local Nature  
COLORING PAGE



# Hyacinth

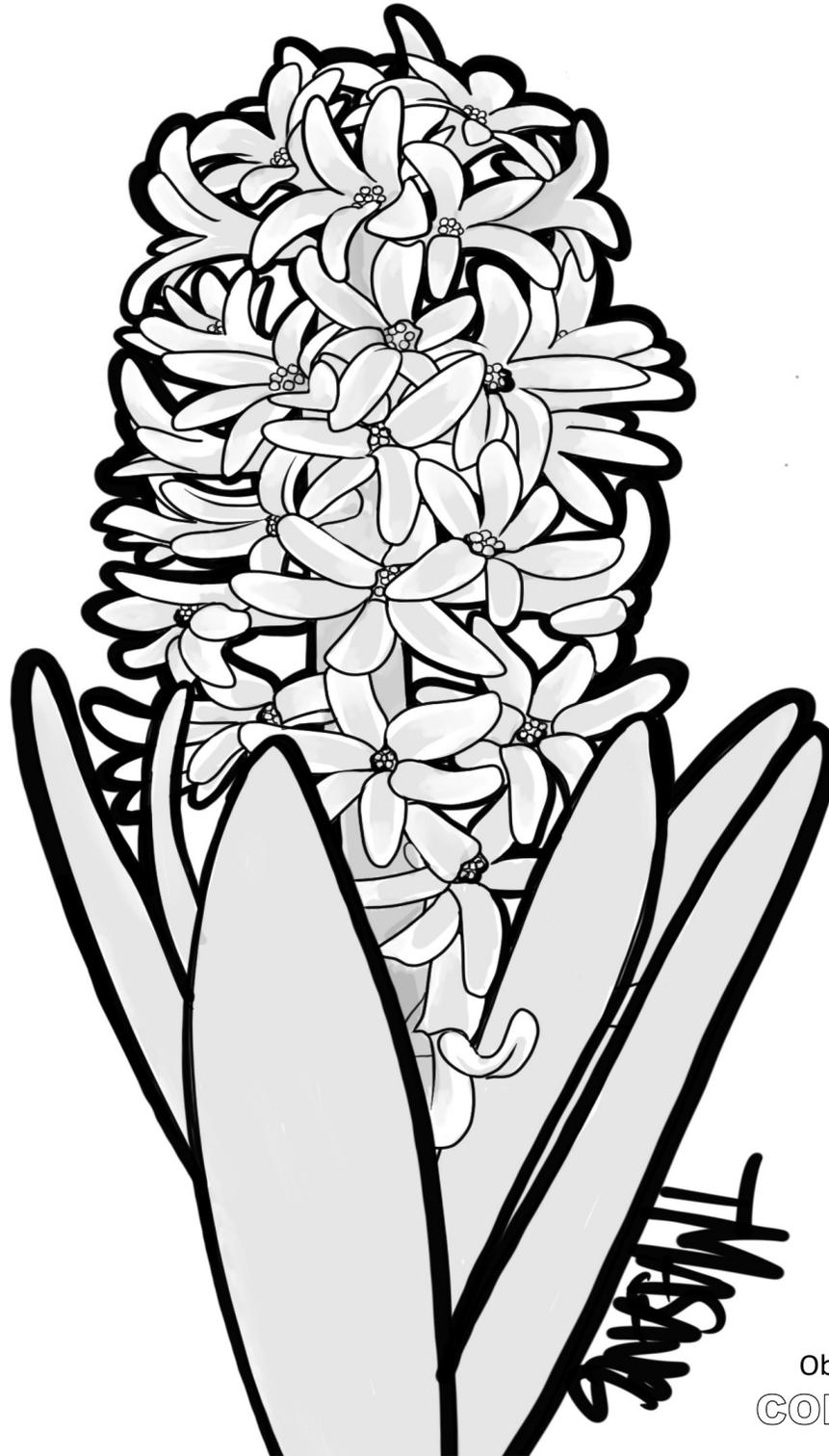
## *Hyacinthus orientalis*

Hy-ah-SIN-thus or-ee-en-TAH-liss

The hyacinth plant has a flower known for its deep purple color and bold fragrance. With such a great spring scent, you will know when hyacinths are around!

Hyacinths grow from a bulb: they produce smooth green leaves and many funnel-shaped flowers on a single stalk (another word for stem).

Did you know? When planting hyacinth bulbs, gloves should be worn to avoid possible allergic reactions on the skin.



# Buckeye

## *Aesculus flava*

ES-kew-lus FLAH-vah

The buckeye is a deciduous tree (leaves drop in autumn) with grayish, scaly bark.

The buckeye tree's showy yellow flowers bloom in April and May. Bumblebees and ruby-throated hummingbirds like to visit the long, upright, tube-shaped buckeye flowers.

The seed of the buckeye tree is also called a buckeye. Squirrels like to eat these seeds, but people should not eat raw buckeyes – they are toxic to humans, meaning they can make us very sick.

Because people in Ohio love our state tree so much, some people make a dessert that *looks like* buckeye seeds, made from peanut butter and chocolate instead of real seeds.



# Viburnum

Observing Local Nature  
COLORING PAGE



## *Viburnum x carlcephalum* 'Cayuga'

vih-BUR-num BY karl-sef-uh-lum kay-YOO-gah

This deciduous shrub shows off green leaves and clusters of fragrant pinkish-white flowers in May and June.

Important pollinators – like bumblebees – visit the flowers of the viburnum to drink the nectar.

In the process, they move pollen from one flower to another, which allows the plant to make fruit. The fruit of the viburnum starts out red and then turns deep black as it ripens in the fall.

Growing lots of good-smelling flowers all at once is an adaptation, a way that the plant has changed to become more successful in its habitat.

