

The American Yellowwood

Madison

One of the rarest trees in the state is the American yellowwood. The second largest of its kind in Wisconsin grew in the courtyard of the Adams Residence Hall on the University of Wisconsin–Madison campus until it came down in 1999 due to structural failures. Its circumference was 5 feet 8 inches.

A southern Appalachian native, it covers itself with beautiful white blossoms every spring. Three other yellowwoods existed previously on the campus, but the somewhat protected location of the Adams Hall specimen apparently insulated it from winter blasts, allowing it to survive longer than the others.