

Smart Stuff

with Twig Walkingstick



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
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EXTENSION
OHIO AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER

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By Kurt Knebusch
(330) 263-3776
knebusch.1@osu.edu

Notes: The URL is for the Osage-orange page in Ohio State University Extension's very helpful, very thorough *Ohio Trees* bulletin. See really nice photos of Osage oranges, including ones up in a tree before falling and a super-great closeup of one, at <http://fireflyforest.net/firefly/2005/10/25/osage-orange/>. Also: Artful arty Osage oranges! — <http://www.apartmenttherapy.com/nj/plants-flowers/look-osage-oranges-at-takashimaya-066314>.

Section of Communications and Technology

2021 Coffey Road
Columbus, OH 43210-1044
(614) 292-2011

208 Research Services Bldg.
1680 Madison Ave.
Wooster, OH 44691-4096
(330) 263-3780

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Q. Dear Twig: What are those green things? Under that tree? They're all kind of big, round and wrinkly.

A. So, like, I can't see the tree. I can't see the green things. But maybe I can guess what they are. You say they're green. You say they're big, round and wrinkly. And I know that it's fall right now.

So: My guess is that they're **Osage** ("OH-sayj") **oranges**, the fruit of the tree of the same name. The fruit of the **Osage-orange tree**, that is. They're as big as a softball but heavier. Pukey **neon green**. And **wrinkly like a brain**.

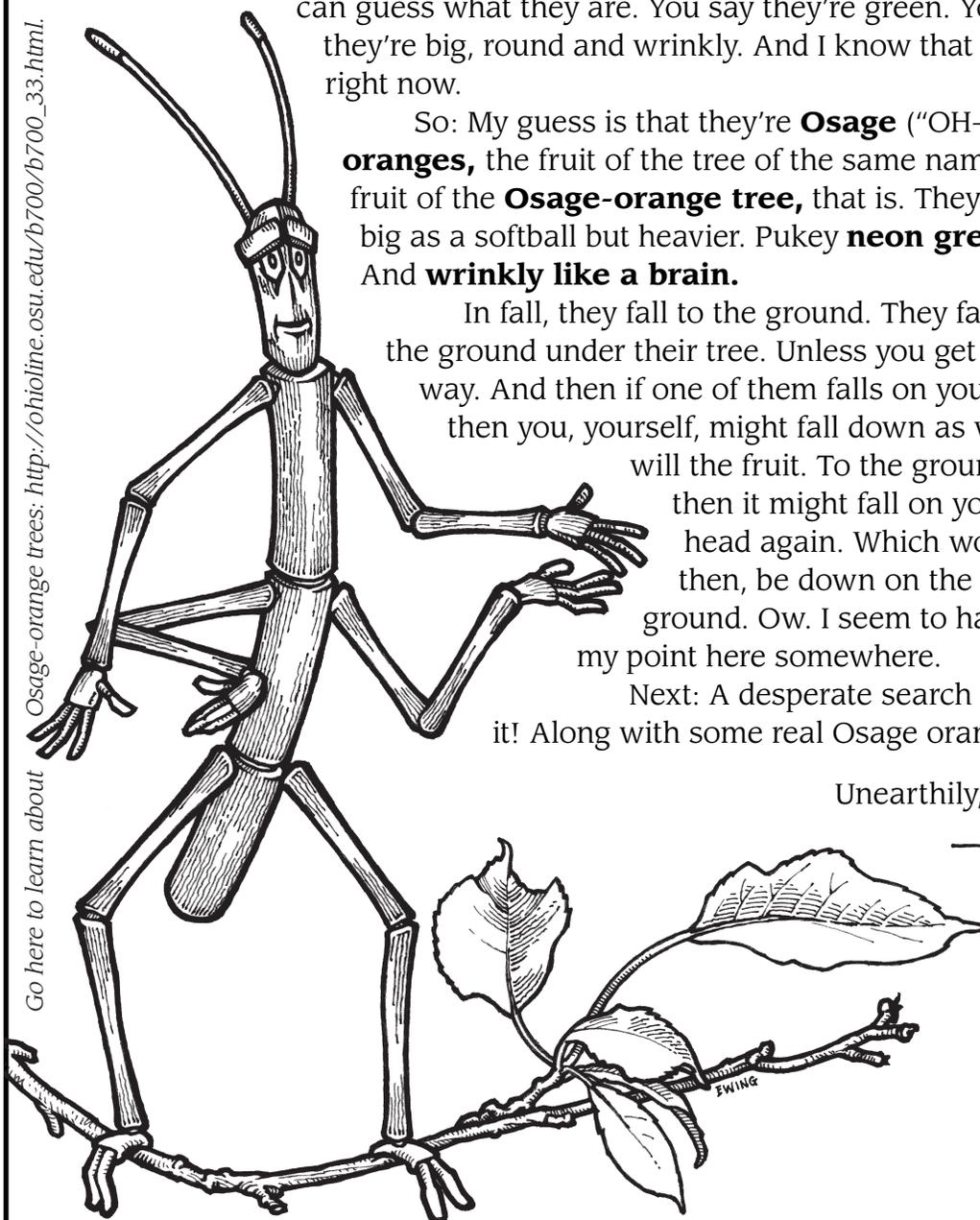
In fall, they fall to the ground. They fall to the ground under their tree. Unless you get in the way. And then if one of them falls on your head, then you, yourself, might fall down as well. As will the fruit. To the ground. And then it might fall on your head again. Which would, by then, be down on the ground. Ow. I seem to have lost my point here somewhere.

Next: A desperate search to find it! Along with some real Osage oranges!

Unearthily,

Twig

Go here to learn about Osage-orange trees: http://ohioline.osu.edu/b700/b700_33.html.



From your scientific friends at The Ohio State University — specifically, the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (www.oardc.ohio-state.edu) and OSU Extension (extension.osu.edu).