

Hilliard May Have State's Largest Mulberry Tree

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by Frances Jacobs

North of Cemetery Rd., on the lot adjacent to BancOhio, stands a mulberry tree which may be the state's biggest. A Ben Hayes column in the Citizen Journal in May of 1964 referred to it as one of the state's largest trees.

Ohio Forestry Association records list a tree in Sandusky County as the state's largest red mulberry. It has a trunk circumference of 15 feet 7 inches, a height of 56 feet and a spread of 87 feet.

The Hilliard tree has a trunk circumference of 17 feet and has been calculated by a local amateur forester to be around 56 feet tall with over an 80 foot spread. Contacted last week the Ohio State Forestry Association said they would send a forester out this week to make official measurements of the tree.

The land on which it stands is now owned by the Mid-Ohio Development Corporation, but it was once part of the Weaver farm.

Mrs. Mary Miller recalls that the tree was always there in the yard of their old home place, and that it was always a big tree. When her grandparents lived there they kept a children's swing on it.

It never bore fruit, Mrs. Miller said, because it is a male tree. One of the most interesting things she recalls about it is that it would cling tenaciously to its leaves every autumn while trees all around were