

Carya ovata - Shagbark Hickory (*Juglandaceae*)

Carya ovata is a tall shade tree with straight trunk, shaggy bark (tendency of the bark to peel off in long strips), and striking golden yellow autumn color that unfortunately lasts for only a few days.

Form

FEATURES



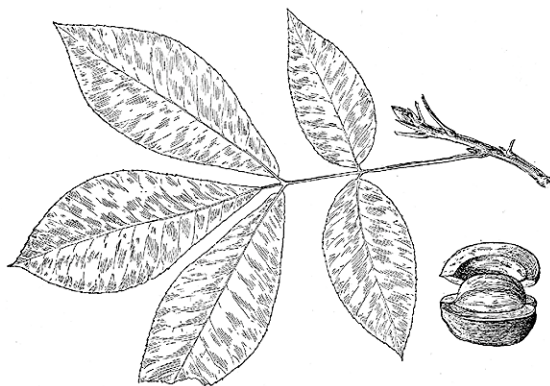
- large deciduous tree, 60-80' tall x 25-35' wide
- upright, straight trunk, oblong crown
- oval outline with the lower branches somewhat drooping, the upper branches upright, and the middle branches just about horizontal
- slow to medium growth rate (12-18" per year), long-lived

Culture

- full sun to partial shade
- prefers moist, well-drained (light) soils but will tolerate many soil types
- coarse root system makes it somewhat difficult to transplant
- rare availability

Foliage

- alternate, compound, oddly pinnate, commonly 5 leaflets, 8-14" long
- serrated margin



- lanceolate to oblong-lanceolate leaflets
- deep yellow green in summer, golden-yellow/brown in autumn; autumn color can be spectacular, if brief

Flowers

- catkins up to 6" long
- spring

Fruit

- oval/round, 1-2"
- dry, hard; edible but must be cleaned
- very showy

Twigs

- gray-brown, stout, many lenticels

Trunk



- very distinctive and showy as the tree matures
- shaggy, resulting from long plates which are detached from trunk at both ends but remain attached in the middle

USAGE

Function

- shade tree, specimen, highway plantings; the tree is most likely used in a naturalistic setting; it can be found in older neighborhoods

Texture

- medium in foliage and coarse when bare

Assets

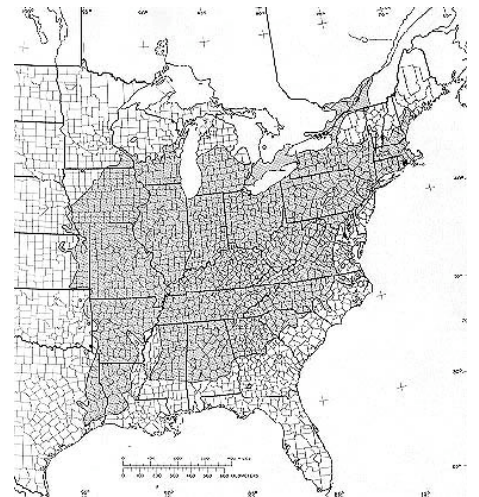
- striking autumn color
- interesting bark

Liabilities

- fruit can cause significant litter
- fallen leaves can be messy because of their large size

Habitat

- Zones 4-8
- Native to Eastern U.S.



SELECTIONS

Alternates

- other large shade trees (*Acer saccharinum*, *A. saccharum*, *Aesculus flava*, *Celtis occidentalis*, etc.)

Cultivars – Variants- Related species

- the species form is the only form available
- not widely grown in nurseries