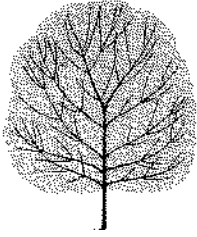


# *Fraxinus americana* - White Ash (*Oleaceae*)

*Fraxinus americana* is a broad-spreading, large shade tree of moderate growth rate. White Ash has excellent autumn foliage, bark character and bold texture in winter but is not urban tolerant.

## Form



## FEATURES

- large deciduous tree
- maturing at 70' tall x 70' wide
- upright rounded growth habit
- medium growth rate

### Culture

- full sun
- adaptable to soil types and soil pHs but overall not especially urban tolerant (especially to soil compaction, drought and air

pollution)

- propagated by cuttings grafted onto seedling understock

-Olive Family, with several disease (leaf spots, branch cankers, mycoplasma-induced decline and dieback) and pest (oyster shell scale and wood borer) problems

- abundantly available in B&B form, including several cultivars noted for growth habit or autumn color variation

### Foliage

- opposite arrangement, medium to dark green and pinnately compound, casting a dense shade
- leaflets (usually 7) are ovate and usually entire on the margins
- autumn color - vivid orange, yellow, maroon, red, purple, or combinations thereof, usually in late Sept. and completely abscised by mid-Oct.



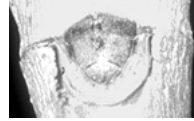
## Flowers

- dioecious (male and female trees)
- green to purple inflorescences in Apr. are not especially showy

## Fruits

- green changing to brown clusters of samaras on female trees, littering the ground or gutters with winged seeds in autumn

## Twigs



- thick and stout stems are olive changing to brown and lenticled
- leaf scars are U-shaped with the brown pubescent lateral buds resting within the leaf scar

## Trunk

- gray-brown and smooth in youth, becoming very deeply furrowed and ridged in a few short years, with the ridges interlacing to form a diamondback pattern of 2" thick bark with age
- smooth gray bark persists in larger diameter branches than in Green Ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*)
- quickly losing its central leader to yield several large upright or spreading branches for a very rounded habit

## USAGE

### Function

- shade or specimen tree

### Texture

- medium texture in foliage and bold when bare
- thick density in foliage and average when bare

### Assets

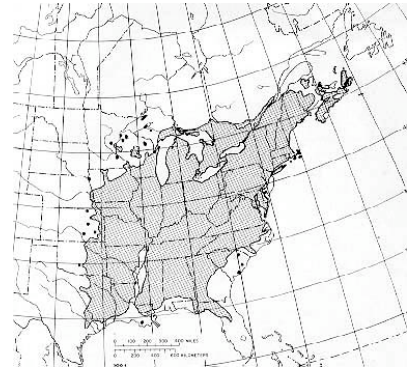
- moderately quick growth for a shade tree
- brilliant autumn color
- bold texture in winter
- ornamental bark
- symmetrical rounded shape

### Liabilities

- not especially urban tolerant
- some pest and disease problems, including borers
- dense shading leads to dead stem litter from the interior of the canopy
- surface roots with age

### Habitat

- Zones 3 to 9
- Native to the Eastern and Midwestern U.S. and Southern Canada. A major tree of midwestern forests.



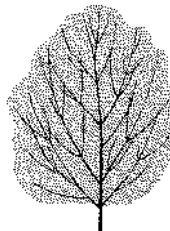
## SELECTIONS

### Alternates

- large shade trees and those with excellent autumn color
- large trees that grow moderately fast

### Cultivars – Variants – Related species

- F. americana* 'Autumn Applause' - maroon autumn color, male (therefore, no fruits), 40' x 25' upright oval at maturity
- F. americana* Autumn Purple® ('Junginger') - purple-red autumn color, male, 40' x 60' at maturity, yielding a spreading form with glossy summer and autumn foliage



- F. americana* Skyline® - a common cultivar for street tree planting (shown at left), owing to its very upright (columnar) growth habit in youth, but still not fit for long-term urban conditions, male, maturing at 50' x 40' with orange-red autumn color