**Fraxinus pennsylvanica - Green Ash (Oleaceae)**

*Fraxinus pennsylvanica* is a common, upright- to irregularly- shaped shade tree of rapid growth rate and infrequent bright yellow autumn foliage. Green Ash is widely planted due to its urban tolerance, including areas exposed to winter salt spray.

### FEATURES

**Form**
- Large deciduous tree
- Maturing at 50' tall x 30' wide
- Upright oval growth habit, becoming rounded to irregular with age
- Rapid growth rate

**Culture**
- Full sun
- Prefers moist, well-drained soils but is adaptable to poor soils, soil pHs, drought, pollution, soil compaction, and salt spray (very urban tolerant)
- Propagated primarily by cuttings grafted onto seedling understock
- Olive Family, with a few disease and pest problems (including oyster shell scales and wood borers)
- Abundantly available in B&B form

**Foliage**
- Medium to dark green and pinnately compound, casting a relatively dense shade, but lighter in shade than White Ash (*Fraxinus americana*) due to the more open character of the branching and slightly thinner leaflets
- Leaflets (usually 5) are commonly serrated (but sometimes nearly entire) on the margins and are narrow ovate
- Autumn color is often poor and usually a mixture of green and yellowish green in Oct., but is a bright golden-yellow in good years

**Flowers**
- Dioecious (male and female trees)
- Green to purple inflorescences in Apr. are not especially showy

**Fruits**
- Green changing to brown clusters of samaras, with winged seeds littering the ground or gutters in autumn (prolific samara production may occur on female trees of this species)

**Twigs**
- Stout (but not as stout as White Ash) and comparatively thin, olive changing to brown and lenticeled
- Leaf scars half-moon-shaped (or D-shaped, with the "D" on its side) with a brown pubescent bud set directly on top of the flattened leaf scar

- Lower branches become pendulous with age and curve upward at their ends
- Species tends to be more twiggy than White Ash

### Trunk
- Gray-brown bark is composed of flaky thin strips in youth, becoming deeply furrowed and ridged with age, with the ridges interlacing to form a diamondback pattern
- The furrowed pattern appears in smaller diameter branches than in White Ash

### USAGE

**Function**
- Shade, street tree, or wet site tree

**Texture**
- Medium text in foliage and medium-bold when bare
- Thick density in foliage and when bare (at maturity)

**Assets**
- Quick growth for a shade tree
- Urban tolerance (including salt tolerance)
- Ornamental bark

**Liabilities**
- Some pest and disease problems
- Interior shading leads to dead stem litter
- Surface roots with age

**Habitat**
- Zones 3 to 9
- Native to the forests of Eastern and Midwestern U.S. and Southern Canada; very common tree

### SELECTIONS

**Alternates**
- Shade trees, especially for urban areas (e.g. *Corylus colurna*, *Gleditsia triacanthos var. inermis*, *Robinia pseudoacacia*, *Ulmus 'Urban' and 'Homestead', etc.)

**Cultivars – Variants – Related species**
- *F. pennsylvanica* Cimmaron® ('Cimmzam') - a new male introduction with a sequence of burgundy to brick red to orange autumn color
- *F. pennsylvanica* 'Marshall's Seedless', 'Patmore', and 'Summit' are the most common cultivars, all having glossy dark green summer foliage, good autumn color, and fruitless character, slightly more compact than the species form