

IDENTIFYING ASH TREES

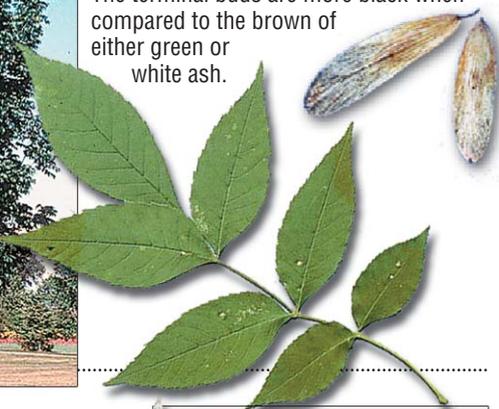
The public will be encouraged this fall to collect ash seeds for a seed bank operated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Here's how to spot the four main species:



Black Ash

Habitat: Poorly drained sites, such as swamps, streams, and riverbanks.

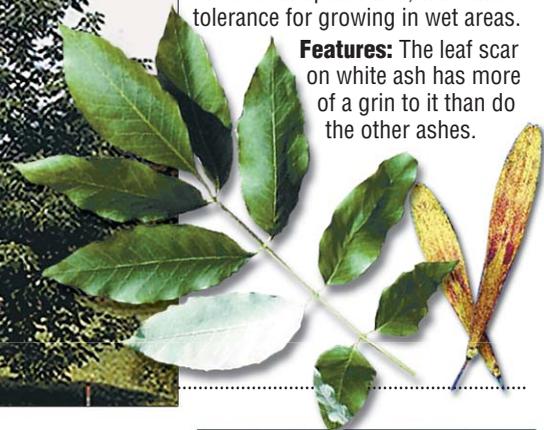
Features: 40 to 50 feet in height, smaller than either white or green ash. The terminal buds are more black when compared to the brown of either green or white ash.



White Ash

Habitat: The most common of the four ash trees found in Ohio, it is more of an upland tree, with little tolerance for growing in wet areas.

Features: The leaf scar on white ash has more of a grin to it than do the other ashes.



Blue Ash

Habitat: Dry upland limestone sites almost exclusively in western Ohio.

Features: Twigs that appear to be square. The wings that grow on the twigs give the tree its square twig identifying characteristic.



Green Ash

Habitat: Poorly drained soils, along streams, in bottom lands, and throughout wet woods.

Features: Compared to the leaf scar of the white ash, the scar appears more like a semicircle with a flat line across the top.



A collection form can be obtained from the USDA's Rose Lake Plant Materials Center, 7472 Stoll Road, East Lansing, Mich., 48823. The telephone number there is 517-641-6300. The form also can be downloaded at <http://www.mi.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/pmc.html>