

# TECHNICAL NOTES

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE STATE OF OKLAHOMA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

## Wood Technical Note OK-3, REV.

May 8, 2015

To: All Offices

From: Steven J. Glasgow  
State Resources Conservationist

### RE: Major Tree Species in Oklahoma

Following is an alphabetical listing of the major tree species found in Oklahoma. Shown for each species are its growth characteristics, shade tolerance, primary uses, firewood value, fall foliage color, wildlife value and general information.

#### Ash, green

(*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*)



Green ash is a medium-sized, native, deciduous tree. It is fast growing on moist bottomlands, and is extremely hardy to climatic extremes, once established.

**Shade Tolerance:** Moderately tolerant.

**Uses:** Its wood is a valued timber product because of its strength, hardness, high shock resistance, and excellent bending qualities. It is also valued for pulp and paper requiring hardwood fibers. The wood is also commonly used in specialty items such as tool handles, guitars, furniture, and interior furnishings. It is often planted in windbreaks and shelterbelts due to its tolerance to a wide range of soil conditions, its good form, and high survival rate.

**Firewood Value:** Commonly used as firewood and is easily split.

**Fall Foliage:** Leaves turn golden yellow in the fall.

**Wildlife Value:** Moderate importance to wildlife with the seeds eaten by birds and mammals, while deer and rabbit browse the foliage and twigs.

#### Ash, white

(*Fraxinus Americana*)



White ash is a medium sized, native, deciduous, long-lived tree.

**Shade Tolerance:** Intolerant when mature; however, the seedlings are tolerant.

**Uses:** The most valuable timber tree of the ashes, although white and green ashes are typically marketed together due to their similar wood properties. Nearly all wooden baseball bats are made from white ash. It is a good tree for open areas such as parks; it also is used as a lawn, shade, and street tree.

**Firewood Value:** Used as firewood and is easily split.

**Fall Foliage:** An erect, graceful tree, often with bronze-purple fall foliage.

**Wildlife Value:** Like the green ash, white ash is of moderate importance to wildlife, although they readily form trunk cavities for nesting.

**General Information:** The juice from the leaves of white ash can be applied to mosquito bites for relief of swelling and itching. White ash is also known to have a specialized use as a preventative measure for snake bites. The odor of crushed leaves being carried in pockets is said to be offensive to rattlesnakes.

#### Baldcypress

(*Taxodium distichum*)



Baldcypress is a large sized, native, long-lived, deciduous conifer; usually restricted to very wet soils, although it is easily adapted to drier conditions. The trunks of older trees are tapered, and buttresses at the base when growing in swampy areas.

**Shade Tolerance:** Intolerant to shade.

**Uses:** Baldcypress wood is highly resistant to decay and is highly prized for its working qualities, making it valuable for a multitude of uses including construction, fence posts, doors, blinds, shingles, boats, caskets, interior trim and cabinetry.

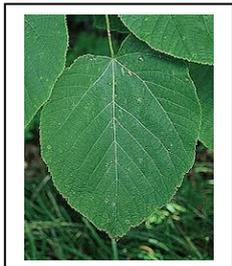
**Firewood Value:** Not generally cut for firewood due to its relatively low BTU rating and high water content.

**Fall Foliage:** Leaves turn a dark rust red color in the fall before dropping.

**Wildlife Value:** Very little importance to wildlife, although the seeds are eaten by turkey, wood ducks and squirrels. They also provide nesting sites for many bird species, including bald eagles.

### **Basswood**

(*Tilia spp.*)



Basswood is a medium sized, native, deciduous tree.

**Shade Tolerance:** Moderately tolerant to shade.

**Uses:** It has relatively soft wood that works exceptionally well and is valued for hand carving, musical instruments, hunting decoys, boxes, veneer, excelsior, and pulp. The inner bark can be used as a source of fiber for making rope or for weaving such items as baskets and mats.

**Firewood Value:** Not generally cut for firewood due to its low BTU rating, although it splits very well.

**Fall Foliage:** Leaves turn yellow to yellowish green in the fall.

**Wildlife Value:** It is of relatively minor importance to wildlife, although easily decayed wood readily forms cavities.

**General Information:** The flowers produce an abundance of nectar from which choice honey is made. In fact, in some parts of its range basswood is known as "the bee-tree". Basswood is also often referred to as "Linden".

River birch is a medium-sized, native, deciduous tree that is typically only found on wet sites.

**Shade Tolerance:** Intolerant of shade.

**Uses:** Limited commercial value since it is usually too knotty to be used for lumber. Commonly used in landscaping because of its peeling bark and multiple trunks

**Firewood Value:** Good firewood, is an excellent fire starter, and splits easily, although it burns very fast.

**Fall Foliage:** Leaves turn yellow in the fall.

**Wildlife Value:** Little importance to wildlife with some species of birds eating the seeds, buds, or catkins, while deer and rabbit browse on the twigs and foliage.

**General Information:** Native Americans used the boiled sap as a sweetener similar to maple syrup and the inner bark as a survival food.

### **Birch, river**

(*Betula nigra*)



Blackgum, sometimes known as black tupelo, is a medium to large-sized, slow growing, native, deciduous tree.

**Shade Tolerance:** Somewhat tolerant of shade.

**Uses:** Mainly for lumber, veneer, flooring, railroad ties and pulp.

**Firewood Value:** It can be used as firewood, although it is extremely difficult to split.

**Fall Foliage:** Considered one of the most beautiful fall foliage species as the leaves are among the first to turn a brilliant red-orange to burgundy.

**Wildlife Value:** An important wildlife species with many species of birds and mammals consuming the fruit while the young sprouts are heavily browsed by white-tailed deer. Because older trees are prolific producers of cavities, blackgum is usually ranked as one of the more dependable den tree species.

**General Information:** Honey bees utilize the nectar from the flowers of blackgum to produce honey.

### **Blackgum**

(*Nyssa sylvatica*)



Boxelder is a small to large-sized, native, deciduous tree. It is fast growing and generally grows on moist sites, but is also drought tolerant once established.

**Shade Tolerance:** Moderately tolerant to shade.

**Uses:** Boxelder, which is a member of the maple family, is not a desired timber species because its wood is light, soft, close grained, and low in strength.

**Firewood Value:** Not commonly used for firewood because it is difficult to split, sparks, burns fast and tends to rot quickly.

**Fall Foliage:** The leaves of boxelder turn a dull yellow in the autumn.

**Wildlife Value:** Many wildlife species of birds and mammals feed on the seeds of boxelder. White-tailed deer use it in the fall as a browse species.

### **Boxelder**

(*Acer negundo*)



**General Information:** The sap of boxelder was reportedly boiled-down by Native Americans to make syrup.

### Catalpa

(*Catalpa spp.*)



Catalpa is a small to medium sized, introduced, deciduous tree.

**Shade Tolerance:** Slightly tolerant to shade.

**Uses:** Although used in the past for a variety of wood-based products, today catalpa is used primarily for shade trees, shelterbelts and erosion control.

**Firewood Value:** Can be used for firewood although it has a low BTU rating, produces an unpleasant fragrance and is difficult to split.

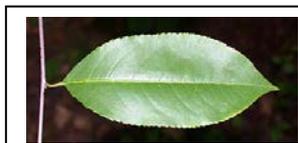
**Fall Foliage:** Leaves turn pale yellow in the fall before dropping early.

**Wildlife Value:** It is of little importance to wildlife, other than the food source provided by the catalpa worms.

**General Information:** The catalpa worm which feeds on the foliage is prized by fishing enthusiasts. Hummingbirds, butterflies and bees are attracted to flowers of the catalpa.

### Cherry, black

(*Prunus serotina*)



Black cherry is a medium to large sized, native, deciduous tree.

**Shade Tolerance:** Intolerant to shade.

**Uses:** An important commercial tree. The rich reddish-brown wood is strong, hard, and close-grained. It works well and finishes smoothly, making it one of the most valued cabinet and furniture woods in North America. Black cherry wood is also used for paneling, interior trim, veneers, handles, crafts, and toys.

**Firewood Value:** It makes good firewood and is easy to split.

**Fall Foliage:** Leaves turn a subdued mixture of yellow, orange or red in the fall, depending on the weather conditions.

**Wildlife Value:** High importance to wildlife with the fruits being extremely valuable to numerous wildlife species of song birds, upland game birds and various mammals.

**General Information:** The bark was historically used as a cough remedy, tonic, and sedative. The fruits are edible, and are eaten raw and used in wine and jellies. Leaves, twigs, bark and seeds are poisonous to livestock. Most livestock poisoning comes from eating wilted leaves. The wood is frequently used for barbecuing and grilling.

### Chinaberry

(*Melia azederach*)



Chinaberry is a small to medium-sized, introduced, deciduous tree. It is fast growing and can form dense thickets due to rapid colonization by root sprouting, and can become quite invasive. It is often mistakenly referred to as "soapberry". Chinaberry has double compound leaves with toothed margins and the bark of young trees is relatively smooth.

**Shade Tolerance:** Moderately tolerant to shade.

**Uses:** Chinaberry is not important commercially, although it is a member of the mahogany family.

**Firewood Value:** Chinaberry is not commonly used as firewood, although it splits easily.

**Fall Foliage:** Its leaves turn golden yellow in the fall.

**Wildlife Value:** Birds and mammals eat chinaberry fruit to a limited extent; however, the fruit is poisonous to humans and livestock.

### Chittamwood

(*Bumelia lanuginosa*)



Chittamwood is a small to medium sized, native, deciduous tree.

**Shade Tolerance:** Slightly tolerant to shade.

**Uses:** It is of limited commercial value primarily due to its small size, but has been used for tool handles and craft projects such as pens and small bowls.

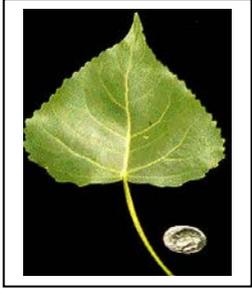
**Firewood Value:** It is not commonly used for firewood, although it burns well and splits easily.

**Fall Foliage:** The leaves tend to drop in the fall without providing a showy color.

**Wildlife Value:** Chittamwood is an important wildlife species with its fruit being consumed by various species of birds and small mammals while its leaves and twigs are browsed by deer. The flowers of are very attractive to bees.

**General Information:** Sap that oozes from cracks and wounds in the bark of chittamwood has historically been used as chewing gum to children.

**Cottonwood, eastern**  
(*Populus deltoides*)



Eastern cottonwood is a large sized, native, fast growing deciduous tree. It is the fastest growing native tree in Oklahoma and primarily grows on moist alluvial soils of floodplains and bottomlands.

**Shade Tolerance:** Very intolerant to shade.

**Uses:** The wood of eastern cottonwood is light, soft, and weak. It is not durable and warps badly. It is used principally for pallets, interior parts of furniture, corestock in plywood, and high-grade pulp.

**Firewood Value:** Not generally cut for firewood due to its low BTU rating, although it splits very well.

**Fall Foliage:** Leaves turn yellow in the fall or are absent of color during dry periods.

**Wildlife Value:** Eastern cottonwood is of moderate importance to wildlife. Seedlings and young trees are often browsed by rabbits and deer while large trees with horizontal branching are commonly used for turkey roosting.

**Dogwood, flowering**  
(*Cornus florida*)



Flowering dogwood is a native, deciduous, multi-branched small tree that grows beneath the forest canopy.

**Shade Tolerance:** Very tolerant to shade.

**Uses:** The wood is not of significant commercial value, although it is occasionally used to make specialty items.

**Firewood Value:** Makes excellent firewood and is easily split, however it is rarely used because of its small size.

**Fall Foliage:** It is prized as an ornamental due to its showy blossoms and attractive scarlet fall foliage in the autumn.

**Wildlife Value:** It is a valuable species for wildlife. Its fruit, although poisonous to humans, is readily eaten by many species of birds and mammals. Flowering dogwood is of medium preference as a browse for white-tailed deer.

**General Information:** Native Americans made scarlet dye from the roots, and teas and quinine substitutes were made from the bark.

**Elm, American**  
(*Ulmus americana*)



American elm is a deciduous, fast-growing, long lived tree. The native population has been ravaged by the Dutch elm disease causing catastrophic die-off.

**Shade Tolerance:** Moderately tolerant to shade.

**Uses:** The wood is coarse-grained, heavy, and strong, but warps, splits badly in seasoning and lacks durability. It is principally used for boxes, baskets, furniture, hockey sticks, veneer, wood pulp, and papermaking.

**Firewood Value:** American elm is used for firewood although it is difficult to split due to its twisted grain pattern.

**Fall Foliage:** Leaves turn golden yellow in the fall.

**Wildlife Value:** The wildlife value of American elm is moderate. The saplings are considered a choice browse by white-tailed deer. The seeds and buds are eaten by a number of small birds and mammals.

**Elm, cedar**  
(*Ulmus, crassifolia*)



Cedar elm is a native, medium to large, deciduous tree. It is susceptible to Dutch elm disease, but slightly less so than the other native elms.

**Shade Tolerance:** Moderately tolerant to shade.

**Uses:** The wood is extremely strong and has exceptional shock resistance. It is used in a variety of manufacture, from caskets and furniture to fence posts and bee frames. It's fine grain bends well, so it is used to make curved containers, boxes, crates, barrels and baskets.

**Firewood Value:** Can be used for firewood, although it is hard and resists splitting.

**Fall Foliage:** Cedar elm has the smallest leaves of the native elms and its foliage turns a golden yellow color in the fall.

**Wildlife Value:** The wildlife value of cedar elm is moderate although several birds and mammals thrive on its seeds and buds.

**Elm, Chinese**  
(*Ulmus parvifolia*)



Chinese elm is an introduced, small to medium-sized, deciduous tree. It is often referred to as 'lacebark elm' due to its flaking bark of mottled gray, tan and red coloring. It is highly resistant, but not completely immune, to Dutch elm disease. It was commonly planted as a windbreak species due to being fast-growing and hardy in warm and dry areas and is considered the hardiest of the elms.

**Shade Tolerance:** Slightly tolerant to shade.

**Uses:** Due to its superior hardness, toughness, and resistance to splitting, Chinese elm lumber is used most for furniture, cabinets, veneer, hardwood flooring, as well as specialty uses such as long bow construction and tool handles.

**Firewood Value:** Chinese elm can be used for firewood, although it is hard and resists splitting.

**Fall Foliage:** Foliage in autumn often turns shades of red and purple.

**Wildlife Value:** The wildlife value of Chinese elm is moderate. The seeds and buds are eaten by a number of small birds and mammals.

**Elm, Siberian**  
(*Ulmus pumilla*)



Siberian elm is an introduced, small to medium-sized, deciduous tree. Siberian elm, which was introduced from east-central Asia, is resistant to Dutch elm disease. It is often mistakenly referred to as 'Chinese elm'.

**Shade Tolerance:** Intolerant to shade.

**Uses:** Its primary use in Oklahoma is as a windbreak species due to its hardness, fast growth, drought resistance and tolerance to poor soils.

**Firewood Value:** It can be used for firewood, although it is difficult to split.

**Fall Foliage:** Leaves turn yellow for a short period in the autumn before falling to the ground.

**Wildlife Value:** The wildlife value of Siberian elm is moderate. The seeds and buds are eaten by a number of small birds and mammals. It is prone to storm damage from wind, snow, and ice, causing breakage of branches, which results in the development of cavities that are used as wildlife nesting habitat.

**Elm, slippery**  
(*Ulmus rubra*)



Slippery elm is a native, medium-sized, deciduous tree. Slippery elm has also been decimated by Dutch elm disease.

**Shade Tolerance:** Moderately tolerant to shade.

**Uses:** It is not an important lumber tree, although it is often mixed with other elms and sold together.

**Firewood Value:** Can be used for firewood and splits easier than other elms.

**Fall Foliage:** Leaves turn yellow to golden brown and mixed with yellow-greens in the fall.

**Wildlife Value:** The wildlife value of slippery elm is moderate. It is often browsed by wildlife species including deer and rabbit while the seeds and buds are eaten by a number of small birds and mammals.

**General Information:** The leaves of the slippery elm are rough textured. The bark of the slippery elm contains a mucilaginous substance that was used as a treatment for coughs and diarrhea.

**Elm, winged**  
(*Ulmus alata*)



Winged elm is a native, small to medium-sized, deciduous tree. Winged elm has also been decimated by Dutch elm disease.

**Shade Tolerance:** Moderately tolerant to shade:

**Uses:** Winged elm is used sparingly for factory lumber and is extremely hard.

**Firewood Value:** Can be used for firewood, although it is hard and resists splitting.

**Fall Foliage:** Leaves turn dull yellow in the fall.

**Wildlife Value:** The wildlife value of winged elm is moderate. It is often browsed by wildlife species including deer and rabbit while the seeds and buds are eaten by a number of small birds and mammals.

**General Information:** The twigs of the winged elm usually have pairs of corky wings along the stem.

## Hackberry & Sugarberry

(*Celtis occidentalis*  
& *C. laevigata*).



Hackberry and sugarberry are native, medium to large sized, deciduous trees. Hackberry and sugarberry are easily confused because their range overlaps. Sugarberry's native range includes the entire state (excluding the panhandle) while hackberry's native range is predominately the northern half of Oklahoma. Sugarberry tends to have narrower leaves with mostly smooth margins, while the hackberry leaves are serrated with abundant teeth.

**Shade Tolerance:** Moderately tolerant to shade.

**Uses:** Hackberry is of limited commercial value primarily because the wood is soft and rots easily; while sugarberry, having similar properties, is occasionally used for furniture and other minor purposes.

**Firewood Value:** They are commonly used for firewood due to ease of splitting, low smoke, limited sparks and good quality coals.

**Fall Foliage:** The leaves turn a dull yellow color.

**Wildlife Value:** Hackberry and sugarberry are important wildlife species with their fruit being consumed by a variety of winter birds. The seedlings and saplings are considered a choice browse for white-tailed deer.

## Hickory

(*Carya spp.*)



Hickory is a medium to large-sized, native, deciduous tree. There are several species of hickory found in Oklahoma; the predominant include black, bitternut and mockernut. Other minor species include water, pignut, shellbark, nutmeg, shagbark and little.

**Shade Tolerance:** Slightly tolerant to shade.

**Uses:** Because of its hardness and strength hickory wood is often used for various products such as lumber, furniture, flooring, tool handles and pulpwood. Hickory chips are highly prized for smoking meats.

**Firewood Value:** It makes excellent firewood although it is slightly difficult to split.

**Fall Foliage:** Fall foliage of hickory trees turn a brilliant yellow color.

**Wildlife Value:** Hickory is an important wildlife tree with many species of mammals preferring the mast, especially squirrels. White-tailed deer occasionally browse on the saplings, twigs and foliage. 'Bitternut' hickory, however, has nuts that are very bitter; therefore mammals and birds make little use of them as a source of food.

## Holly, American

(*Ilex opaca*)



American holly is a medium-sized, native, evergreen tree.

**Shade Tolerance:** Very tolerant to shade.

**Uses:** It is often considered an undesirable shrub that competes with pines and desirable hardwoods for light, moisture and nutrients, although it is occasionally used for veneer, cabinets, novelties, handles, musical instruments and pulpwood. The attractiveness of American holly's foliage and brightly colored fruit is its principal value, whether as a forest tree, planted ornamental, or Christmas decoration.

**Firewood Value:** Can be used for firewood, although it is difficult to split.

**Fall Foliage:** N/A (evergreen).

**Wildlife Value:** The wildlife value of American holly is moderate. Birds are the principal consumers of the colorful and somewhat bitter fruit, although deer, squirrels, and other small mammals eat them.

## Kentucky coffeetree

(*Gymnocladus dioica*)



Kentucky coffeetree is a medium to large-sized, native, deciduous tree. It is commonly found in small colonies resulting from root suckers.

**Shade Tolerance:** Slightly tolerant to shade.

**Uses:** Because of its rarity in the forests the logs are often sold in mixture with other species and lose their identity. It has been used for fence posts, railroad ties, bridge timbers and occasionally for interior trim and furniture.

**Firewood Value:** Makes good firewood, although it is rarely used due to its infrequent occurrence.

**Fall Foliage:** Fall foliage is a dull yellow color, however the leaves drop early. It often appears to be dead because it is leafless from mid-autumn to mid-spring.

**Wildlife Value:** It is of very low value to wildlife due to its toxic plant parts.

**General Information:** The Kentucky coffeetree is extremely pest resistant. Early settlers used the beans of the tree as a substitute for coffee; however, unroasted pods and seeds are toxic. Native American hunting tribes traditionally put large

quantities of the beans in streams and lakes to stupefy or kill fish. Animals should not be allowed to graze woodland areas where Kentucky coffeetree grows due to its toxicity. Cattle have also reportedly died after drinking from pools of water contaminated by fallen leaves and seeds from the tree.

**Locust, black**  
(*Robinia pseudoacacia*)



Black locust is a medium-sized, native, fast growing, short-lived, deciduous tree. At the base of young leaves are two short thorns located on each side of the leaf stalk.

**Shade Tolerance:** Intolerant to shade.

**Uses:** The wood of black locust is heavy, strong, durable, resistant to rot and shrinks little upon drying. Consequently, the wood is valuable for a variety of uses, such as fence posts, railroad ties, furniture, flooring, paneling, boxes and pulpwood. Flavonoids in the heartwood allow the wood to last over 100 years in soil. Black locust has been widely planted for windbreaks and shelterbelts, as woody biomass for energy production, and as a shade or ornamental tree. Black locust trees develop extensive root systems and they increase soil fertility through nitrogen fixation which makes them ideal for rehabilitating gullied areas.

**Firewood Value:** Highly valued as firewood, although it is difficult to split. It burns slowly, with little visible flame or smoke, and has a higher heat content than any other species. However, knots and beetle damage can make the wood from older trees prone to sparking.

**Fall Foliage:** Leaves turn an uneventful yellow-green in the fall.

**Wildlife Value:** Moderately important for many wildlife species. White-tailed deer occasionally browse young foliage and rabbits browse on stems. Squirrels, doves, quail pheasants, and other game birds eat black locust seeds. Older trees often develop cavities that become dens for bats, screech owls, and woodpeckers.

**General Information:** Black locust is an excellent pollinator species and is widely used for honey production.

**Locust, honey**  
(*Gleditsia triacanthos*)



Honey locust is a medium-sized, native, deciduous tree. It is armed with large thorns up to 8" long on the lower branches and trunk. In some areas honey locust becomes weedy and invasive, and tends to escape into rangelands. Unlike black locust, honey locust roots do not fix nitrogen in the soil.

**Shade Tolerance:** Intolerant to shade.

**Uses:** The wood of honey locust is dense, hard, strong, shock-resistant, and is durable in contact with soil. For these reasons it has been used as fence posts, railroad ties, furniture, shipping pallets and tool handles. Thornless and fruitless varieties have been developed and are used extensively in landscaping.

**Firewood Value:** Makes excellent firewood and is relatively easy to split.

**Fall Foliage:** Fall foliage color is often a lackluster green-yellow in most years.

**Wildlife Value:** The bean pods are a favorite food of the white-tailed deer, squirrels, rabbits, hogs, opossums, and raccoons. White-tailed deer frequently strip and eat the soft bark of young trees in winter. Rabbits also consume honey locust bark in winter.

**General Information:** Native Americans used the dried pulp from the seed pods as a sweetening agent and a minor food source. The wood was used to make bows, and a variety of medicines were made from various parts of the plant. Honey-locust is an excellent source of pollen and nectar for honey.

**Maple, red**  
(*Acer rubrum*)



Red maple is a medium sized, native, deciduous tree.

**Shade Tolerance:** Moderately tolerant of shade.

**Uses:** Red maple can be a source of sawtimber and pulpwood, but is often overlooked as a wood resource due to its scattered occurrence and poor form. The wood is used for furniture, veneer, pallets, cabinetry, plywood, barrels, crates, flooring, and railroad ties. The wood is frequently used for barbequing and grilling.

**Firewood Value:** Makes good firewood, although it can be moderately difficult to split.

**Fall Foliage:** Red maple is often one of the first trees to turn color in autumn, and it generally puts on one of the most brilliant displays of red of any tree.

**Wildlife Value:** Red maple is browsed by some wildlife species including white-tailed deer, particularly during the winter when food is scarce. The cottontail rabbit sometimes eats the seedlings while squirrels and some birds occasionally eat the seeds and buds. The cavities of older trees are used as nesting habitat by some birds and squirrels.

**Maple, silver**  
(*Acer saccharinum*)



Silver Maple is a native, deciduous, medium-sized, fast growing tree. It is typically found in moist soil areas and is less common on upland sites.

**Shade Tolerance:** Ranges from moderately tolerant to very tolerant depending on site quality.

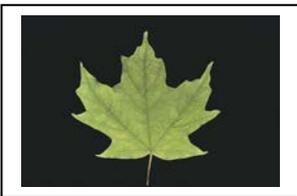
**Uses:** Typically cut and sold with red maple as 'soft maple' lumber. Its wood is moderately hard, brittle, and close-grained and is used for furniture, boxes, crates, food containers, paneling, and pulpwood. Silver maple has been planted as an ornamental, but its use has declined due to frequent breakage from wind, ice and snow storms, and its shallow roots can uplift sidewalks and invade sewer and water lines.

**Firewood Value:** Makes fair firewood due to its low BTU rating; however, it is relatively easy to split.

**Fall Foliage:** Less pronounced than in many maples; generally ending up an uninteresting pale yellow color before turning brown and dropping from the tree early.

**Wildlife Value:** Produces abundant annual seed crops; which, along with buds and flowers, are readily eaten by many species of birds and small mammals. It is also an important source of food and construction material for beavers, while the foliage and twigs are eaten by the white-tailed deer. Because aging trees of silver maple often form cavities in their trunks and larger branches they provide excellent nesting and den habitat.

**Maple, sugar**  
(*Acer saccharum*)



Sugar maple is a native, deciduous, large-sized, long-lived tree.

**Shade Tolerance:** Very tolerant of shade.

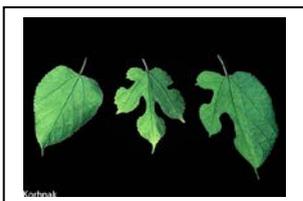
**Uses:** The wood of sugar maple is tough, durable, hard, heavy, and strong which makes it important economically. It is well suited for many uses and is commonly used to make furniture, paneling, flooring, veneer, gunstocks, tool handles, cutting blocks, woodenware, novelty products, bowling pins, and musical instruments. Sugar maple is an attractive shade tree and is widely planted as an ornamental. It is also the primary source of maple sugar and syrup.

**Firewood Value:** Makes excellent firewood; however, it is very difficult to split and tends to spark.

**Fall Foliage:** Leaves assume brilliant shades of yellow, orange, or red.

**Wildlife Value:** It is browsed by some wildlife species, including white-tailed deer. Squirrels, some upland game birds and songbirds feed on the seeds and buds. Because of heart rot older trees provide dens for squirrels, bats and cavity nesting birds.

**Mulberry, red**  
(*Morus rubra*)



Red mulberry is a native, deciduous, medium to small-sized tree.

**Shade Tolerance:** Somewhat tolerant of shade.

**Uses:** The wood of the red mulberry is light, soft, weak, and is of little commercial importance, although it has been used for fence posts. The fruit, however, is widely used to make jams, jellies, pies and wine.

**Firewood Value:** Makes excellent firewood and is easy to split, but it throws sparks.

**Fall Foliage:** In the fall the leaves of the red mulberry turns yellow.

**Wildlife Value:** The early-maturing fruits of this tree are a favorite source of food to many species of song birds. In addition, various small mammals such as the opossum, raccoons and squirrel commonly eat the fruits. The twigs and foliage are also browsed by white-tailed deer.

**General Information:** Native Americans used the fibrous inner bark of young sprouts to make ropes, mats and woven cloth.

**Oak, black**  
(*Quercus velutina*)



Black oak is a native, deciduous, medium to large sized tree. Black oak is generally associated with the oak/hickory and oak/pine forests in eastern Oklahoma and is usually found on the drier upland soils.

**Shade Tolerance:** Intermediate in shade tolerance.

**Uses:** The wood of black oak, which is sold as “red oak”, is hard and strong with a light brown color. It is commonly used for furniture, flooring, and interior finishing, barrels and railroad ties.

**Firewood Value:** Makes excellent firewood and is easy to split.

**Fall Foliage:** In the fall the leaves turn a dull reddish brown or yellow color.

**Wildlife Value:** Acorns produced by black oak provide food for numerous wildlife species including squirrels, mice, black bear, white-tailed deer, and wild turkey. Black oak also has a high cavity value for wildlife.

**General Information:** At one time, the yellow-orange inner bark of black oak was heavily used in the leather tanning industry and it also produced an important yellow dye.

**Oak, blackjack**  
(*Quercus marilandica*)



Blackjack oak is a native, deciduous, small to medium sized, slow growing tree. It is often shrubby with a low, rounded crown and the contorted, dead lower branches tend to remain on the tree for several years. Blackjack oak typically occurs on dry, thin, nutrient-poor soils and is often associated with post oak in the Crosstimbers region.

**Shade Tolerance:** Intolerant to shade.

**Uses:** Although the wood of blackjack oak is hard, heavy and strong, it is of little commercial value. Sometimes it is used for rough construction, fence posts and railroad crossties; and it is a member of the “red oak” family.

**Firewood Value:** It produces excellent firewood and is easy to split.

**Fall Foliage:** The leaves turn red in the fall before turning dull yellow to brown and often clinging to the tree throughout the winter.

**Wildlife Value:** Acorns produced by the blackjack oak provide a valuable food source for a wide variety of mammals and birds.

**Oak, bur**  
(*Quercus macrocarpa*).



Bur oak is a native, deciduous, large sized tree and has an extremely wide range in Oklahoma. It is resistant to fire and possesses significant drought tolerance by virtue of a long taproot. Historically, it was a predominant species in the oak savannah ecosystems.

**Shade Tolerance:** Intermediate in tolerance to shade.

**Uses:** The wood of bur oak is of high quality and commercially valued as a “white oak”. It is used for cabinetry, barrels, hardwood flooring and fence posts.

**Firewood Value:** Makes excellent firewood and is relatively easy to split.

**Fall Foliage:** In the fall the leaves turns a yellow to tannish-brown color.

**Wildlife Value:** The acorns of the bur oak are the largest of any North American oak and are a favorite food source for squirrels and are also readily eaten by white-tailed deer and various other wildlife species.

**Oak, chinkapin**  
(*Quercus muehlenbergii*)



Chinkapin oak is a native, deciduous, medium to large sized tree. It is typically found on rocky upland sites, such as calcareous bluffs, rocky hillsides and protected slopes and canyons, and it can be found in well-drained stream bottoms.

**Shade Tolerance:** Moderately shade tolerant when young, but becomes increasingly intolerant of shade with age.

**Uses:** The wood is heavy, strong and durable with a dark brown color, making it a valuable wood for many uses, such as cabinets, furniture, pallets and sawtimber. It is considered a member of the “white oak” group.

**Firewood Value:** Commonly cut for firewood and is relatively easy to split.

**Fall Foliage:** The leaves usually display shades of yellow and dull orange to brown.

**Wildlife Value:** The acorns are at the top of the food preference list for many wildlife species including squirrel, white-tailed deer, black bear, wild turkey, bobwhite quail and many other species of birds and mammals.

**General Information:** The acorns of the chinkapin oak are sweet and edible when roasted which made them an important food source for Native Americans.

**Oak, northern red**  
(*Quercus rubra*)



Northern red oak is a native, deciduous, medium to large sized tree. It is typically found on north and east facing slopes on upland sites and is associated with oak-hickory or oak-pine forests in the eastern quarter of Oklahoma.

**Shade Tolerance:** Intermediate in shade tolerance.

**Uses:** Northern red oak is an important source of hardwood timber with heavy, hard, strong, coarse-grained wood. It is sold as “red oak” and used for veneer, furniture, cabinets, paneling, flooring, etc.

**Firewood Value:** High fuel value and makes excellent firewood. It is easy to split, however it is slow to cure.

**Fall Foliage:** In the fall, the leaves turn an impressive brick red to scarlet color.

**Wildlife Value:** Acorns of the northern red oak are an important food source for many species of wildlife, including squirrels, white-tailed deer, black bear, wild turkey, bobwhite quail and various songbirds and waterfowl. However, the acorns do not seem to be eaten by wildlife as much as those of other oaks due to the high tannin levels which imparts a bitter flavor.

**Oak, overcup**  
(*Quercus lyrata*).



Overcup oak is a native, deciduous, medium sized tree. It typically occurs on low, wet soils in floodplains forests. Overcup oak acorns have a unique spongy shell that renders them buoyant. Acorns are disseminated by overflow or floodwaters and can be carried long distances by streams. Overcup oak is late to leaf out in the spring, sometimes as long as a month behind other trees which is said to contribute to its flood tolerance.

**Shade Tolerance:** Relatively intolerant of shade.

**Uses:** It is cut and sold as “white oak”. The quality of the lumber varies greatly, but is generally considered poor due to insect damage, staining, heart rot, checking and warping. It is also very susceptible to damage caused by fire.

**Firewood Value:** Makes excellent firewood and is relatively easy to split.

**Fall Foliage:** The foliage is rather uneventful turning shades of yellow-brown before quickly dropping.

**Wildlife Value:** The acorns are eaten by a wide variety of wildlife including wild turkey, squirrels and white-tailed deer. However, the large size of the acorns renders them less suitable for duck food than other acorns.

**Oak, pin**  
(*Quercus palustris*)



Pin oak is a native, deciduous, medium sized, fast growing tree. It typically occurs on bottomland sites along major rivers that usually flood intermittently during the dormant season.

**Shade Tolerance:** Intolerant of shade.

**Uses:** It is cut and sold as “red oak”. It does not self-prune, therefore the wood has numerous small knots which limits its use for factory lumber. The hard, heavy wood is used primarily for railroad ties and general construction. It is also widely used in urban areas as a shade tree and for its aesthetics.

**Firewood Value:** Makes excellent firewood although it can be difficult to split.

**Fall Foliage:** Leaves turn a stunning deep red or scarlet color.

**Wildlife Value:** Acorns are an important food for various wildlife species including white-tailed deer, wild turkey and squirrels. Because the pin oak has small acorns, they are especially valuable to various woodland birds as a food source and to wood ducks and mallards during fall migration.

**General Information:** Pin oak is also an important species associated with greentree reservoirs (artificially flooded areas).

**Oak, post**  
(*Quercus stellata*)



Post oak is a native, deciduous, long-lived, small to medium sized, slow growing tree. Post oak has the most widespread range of oaks in Oklahoma, occurring primarily on dry upland sites and it is a dominant tree found in savannas.

**Shade Tolerance:** Intolerant of shade.

**Uses:** The wood of post oak, commercially called “white oak” is very durable in contact with the soil and was widely used for fence posts, hence, the name. It is not typically a preferred timber species primarily due to excessive branching and defects caused by various agents such as insects, fungi and disease. The wood, however, is highly regarded for its strength, hardness, durability and moisture resistance, and is used for railroad ties, flooring siding, construction, pulp, etc.

**Firewood Value:** Makes excellent firewood and is easy to split.

**Fall Foliage:** A rather uneventful pale brown to reddish color.

**Wildlife Value:** The medium-small acorns are an important food source for a wide variety of birds and mammals including quail, turkey, white-tailed deer, black bear, and squirrels. Cavities found within the trunks and limbs also provide nests and dens for various birds and mammals.

**Oak, sawtooth**  
(*Quercus acutissima*)



Sawtooth oak is an introduced, deciduous, medium sized, fast growing tree.

**Shade Tolerance:** Intolerant to shade.

**Uses:** The wood is similar to other oaks as it is considered an extremely hard wood. While the wood itself is attractive, sawtooth wood is more brittle and tends to crack under pressure; therefore, it is not generally preferred for construction or woodworking.

**Firewood Value:** Makes good firewood, although it is uncommonly used due to low supplies.

**Fall Foliage:** A clear yellow to golden brown and the leaves tend to hang on to the tree throughout the winter.

**Wildlife Value:** Acorns are an important food source for many species of wildlife with a high preference by deer. Production of acorns begins early and tends to bear consistently heavier crops than any other species of oak.

**Oak, Shumard**  
(*Quercus shumardii*)



Shumard oak is a native, deciduous, large sized, moderately fast growing, long-lived tree. It is widely used in urban areas as a shade tree and for its aesthetics, due to its stately shape and rounded canopy.

**Shade Tolerance:** Intolerant to shade.

**Uses:** Shumard oak wood is close-grained, hard, strong, and heavy. The wood is superior to most red oaks; it is marketed as “red oak”, and mixed indiscriminately with other red oak lumber. The wood is used for veneer, cabinets, furniture, flooring, interior trim and lumber.

**Firewood Value:** Makes excellent firewood and is relatively easy to split.

**Fall Foliage:** In the late fall the leaves turn a brilliant red to red-orange.

**Wildlife Value:** Acorns are produced in abundance and provide excellent food for wildlife. They are consumed by songbirds, wild turkey, waterfowl, white-tailed deer, and various species of squirrels.

**Oak, southern red**  
(*Quercus falcata*)



Southern red oak is a native, deciduous, medium sized tree. It commonly occurs on dry, upland sites and typically has a long, straight trunk with upward-reaching branches that form a high rounded crown.

**Shade Tolerance:** Intermediate in tolerance to shade.

**Uses:** Wood of the southern red oak is strong and heavy, but tends to be rough, coarse-grained with insect and stain damage. It is used mainly for factory lumber and railroad ties and is considered a member of the “red oak” group.

**Firewood Value:** Makes excellent firewood and is relatively easy to split.

**Fall Foliage:** A rusty red or copper color.

**Wildlife Value:** Southern red oak acorns provide an important food source for various species of wildlife including waterfowl, wild turkey and white-tailed deer, along with various mammals and songbirds.

**Oak, water**  
(*Quercus nigra*)



Water oak is a native, deciduous, medium-sized, fast growing, relatively short-lived tree. It occurs primarily in bottomland forests, but does not tolerate poorly drained clay soils.

**Shade Tolerance:** Intolerant of shade.

**Uses:** On good sites water oak produces moderate quality factory lumber, but on poor sites the wood is knotty, mineral stained and often insect damaged. Water oak is generally sold as "red oak", and mixed with wood from other red oaks.

**Firewood Value:** Makes excellent firewood and is easy to split.

**Fall Foliage:** Little fall colors, mixed of green, yellow and brown, and persisting long into the winter.

**Wildlife Value:** Water oak acorns provide an important food source for various species of wildlife including waterfowl, wild turkey and white-tailed deer, along with various mammals and songbirds.

**Oak, white**  
(*Quercus alba*)



White oak is a native, deciduous, medium to large-sized, slow growing, long lived tree. White oak is tolerant of a variety of habitats, but is generally absent on shallow ridgetops or very wet bottomlands.

**Shade Tolerance:** Intermediate in tolerance to shade (it is most tolerant in youth and becomes less tolerant as the tree becomes larger).

**Uses:** Wood of the white oak is heavy, hard, strong and durable, and is a valued source of wood for furniture, veneer, paneling and flooring. It is also the major source of wood for whiskey barrels.

**Firewood Value:** Makes excellent firewood and is easy to split.

**Fall Foliage:** In the fall, leaves of the white oak turn a purplish-red color.

**Wildlife Value:** Acorns of the white oak are considered choice food for many wildlife species, including waterfowl, turkey and white-tailed deer, along with various mammals and songbirds.

**Oak, willow**  
(*Quercus phellos*)



Willow oak is a native, deciduous, large-sized, long-lived tree. It grows primarily on floodplain sites that are commonly flooded in winter and spring, but only briefly during the growing season.

**Shade Tolerance:** Intolerant to shade.

**Uses:** It is an important source of wood for lumber, crossties, construction and pulp and is often marketed as "red oak". It is also used widely as a shade tree and ornamental because of its rapid growth, hardiness and straight, tall trunk.

**Firewood Value:** Willow oak makes excellent firewood and is easy to split.

**Fall Foliage:** The leaves have little color, as they turn yellow/brown.

**Wildlife Value:** Because of its consistently heavy, annual acorn production, willow oak is an important food source for many wildlife species, including waterfowl, wild turkey and white-tailed deer, along with various mammals and songbirds.

**Osage orange**  
(*Maclura pomifera*)



Osage orange is a native, deciduous, small-sized tree. Other common names of Osage orange include bois d'arc, horse apple and hedge apple.

**Shade Tolerance:** Intolerant to shade.

**Uses:** It is not typically used for commercial sawtimber or pulpwood, but the hard, durable, heavy, close-grained yellow-orange wood is very dense and is prized for fence posts and tool handles. The heartwood of Osage orange is extremely decay-resistant and immune to termites. It has commonly been used in windbreaks and was historically planted to hold livestock before the introduction of barbed wire, due to its dense growth and sharp thorns.

**Firewood Value:** Burns long and hot, thus providing excellent firewood. It is easy to split, but it very prone to sparking.

**Fall Foliage:** The leaves of the Osage orange turn bright yellow in the fall.

**Wildlife Value:** The seeds of the fruit are edible and sometimes eaten by squirrels and raccoons, but few other animals make use of it as a food source. It is considered of medium preference as browse for white-tailed deer. However, the thorny branches provide valuable shelter and cover for various wildlife species.

**General Information:** The fruit is often used to repel cockroaches. The wood of Osage orange was highly prized by Native Americans for bow-making.

**Pecan**  
(*Carya illinoensis*)



Pecan is a native, deciduous, long-lived, medium to large sized tree. It grows principally on well-drained loamy soils not subject to prolonged flooding.

**Shade Tolerance:** Intolerant to shade.

**Uses:** The wood is slightly inferior to that of other hickories and is not commercially important. It is occasionally used for furniture, flooring, veneer and tool handles. The wood is also used for barbecuing and grilling. Pecan is highly valuable for its nut, which is commercially cultivated and produced in large quantities.

**Firewood Value:** Makes excellent firewood but can be difficult to split.

**Fall Foliage:** The leaves of pecan turn a dull yellow in the fall.

**Wildlife Value:** Pecan nuts are an important source of food for a number of animals and birds including squirrels, deer, wood ducks, turkey and bear.

**Persimmon**  
(*Diospyros virginiana*)



Persimmon is a native, deciduous, medium sized, slow growing tree. Persimmon trees are individually male or female with only female trees bearing fruit. It has a deep tap root, and often forms thickets derived from aggressive root suckering. Thickets may arise from a single tree and be either female or non-fruit bearing male trees.

**Shade Tolerance:** Very tolerant to shade.

**Uses:** The wood is heavy, strong and very close grained. It is not typically used for commercial sawtimber or pulpwood, but historically was used for golf club heads and is valued as wood for turning stock.

**Firewood Value:** Makes excellent firewood and is moderately easy to split.

**Fall Foliage:** The leaves turn a dull yellow to red in the fall.

**Wildlife Value:** The leaves and twigs of persimmon are an important supplementary fall and winter food for white-tailed deer. The fruit is an important food source for a variety of mammals and birds including squirrel, fox, coyote, raccoon, opossum, white-tailed deer, bear, turkey, and quail.

**General Information:** The flowers on the persimmon produce nectar used in the production of honey. The fruit of persimmon has historically been eaten raw, cooked or dried and commonly used in pies, breads, pudding and candies.

**Pine, loblolly**  
(*Pinus taeda*)



Loblolly pine is a native, medium to large-sized, fast growing, coniferous tree. It is native only to the far southeast corner of McCurtain County, but has been widely planted in extensive plantations throughout southeastern Oklahoma for its commercial value.

**Shade Tolerance:** Moderately tolerant of shade when young, but becomes intolerant with age.

**Uses:** It is the leading commercially important timber species in the southeastern United States and the wood is highly prized for lumber, but also used as pulp.

**Firewood Value:** Makes good firewood because it is resinous which makes it easy to ignite, and it is easy to split, however it tends to burn out rapidly.

**Fall Foliage:** N/A (evergreen)

**Wildlife Value:** Loblolly pine seeds are an important food source for a variety of birds and small mammals. Old-growth loblolly pine also provides important nesting habitat for the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker.

**Pine, shortleaf**  
(*Pinus echinata*)



Shortleaf pine is a native, medium-sized, coniferous tree. It is native to several counties in eastern Oklahoma and was historically found within savannahs due to tolerance to fire. Shortleaf pine is also capable of growing a deep taproot which improves its resistance to windthrow.

**Shade Tolerance:** Intolerant of shade.

**Uses:** Shortleaf pine is an important commercial species and ranks second to loblolly pine in total softwood harvested in Oklahoma. The strong wood is used for lumber, plywood, structural material and pulp.

**Firewood Value:** Makes good firewood because it is resinous which makes it easy to ignite, and it is easy to split; however it tends to burn out rapidly.

**Fall Foliage:** N/A (evergreen).

**Wildlife Value:** Shortleaf pine seeds are an important food source for a variety of birds and small mammals. Old-growth shortleaf pine also provides important nesting habitat for the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker.

**Plum, American**  
(*Prunus americana*)



American plum is a native, deciduous, large shrub or small sized tree. It usually produces a single stem and branches low to the ground, but forms thickets by suckering from the roots. Two other species of plum found in Oklahoma include the Chickasaw (sand) plum and the Mexican plum. The Chickasaw (sand) plum is common throughout western Oklahoma and is smaller than the American plum, and tends to form thickets. The Mexican plum is prolific throughout eastern Oklahoma and does not sucker to form thickets.

**Shade Tolerance:** Slightly tolerant to shade but prefers full sunlight.

**Uses:** The wood of the American plum does not have commercial importance due to the small size of the trunks. It is, however, commonly used in windbreaks and shelterbelts.

**Firewood Value:** Makes excellent firewood although it is small, crooked and limby.

**Fall Foliage:** The leaves of American plum turn yellow in the fall.

**Wildlife Value:** It is highly important as wildlife food and cover. A wide variety of birds and animals eat the fruit while the twigs and foliage are moderately preferred by white-tail deer for browse. The thorny, suckering growth forms a thicket valuable for bird and mammal nesting, loafing, roosting and thermal cover.

**General Information:** American plum is also an important nectar plant for bees and butterflies. The fruits are sweet when fully ripe and eaten raw or cooked, made into jams and jellies, or wine, and were dried for winter food in former times by Native Americans and pioneers.

**Redbud, Eastern**  
(*Cercis canadensis*)



Eastern redbud is a native, deciduous, short-lived, small tree and grows well in full sun or shade. Eastern redbud happens to be the state tree of Oklahoma. It has a deep tap root and grows quickly. Although it is a legume, the roots do not fix nitrogen in the soil.

**Shade Tolerance:** Moderately tolerant to shade.

**Uses:** Eastern redbud is of no commercial value because it is seldom large enough to provide merchantable timber.

**Firewood Value:** Makes good firewood and is easy to split, although it is typically too small to justify its use.

**Fall Foliage:** The leaves of eastern redbud turn a bright clear yellow in the fall.

**Wildlife Value:** It is not important for wildlife although the seeds are eaten by various birds and mammals. White-tailed deer tend to browse the young trees.

**General Information:** It is also utilized by bees for pollen and nectar. Native Americans consumed eastern redbud flowers raw or boiled, and ate roasted seeds.

**Redcedar, Eastern**  
(*Juniperus virginiana*)



Eastern redcedar is a small to medium sized, native coniferous tree. Young cedars are intolerant of fire, therefore the species was uncommon in the uplands of Oklahoma before the country was settled. Fire suppression has resulted in the aggressive invasion of eastern redcedar into grasslands, savannas and forestland.

**Shade Tolerance:** Tolerant to shade.

**Uses:** The wood is resistant to decay and is used for lumber, furniture, novelties and fence posts. Cedar oil is also used in medicines and perfumes.

**Firewood Value:** Not generally used for firewood due to its ability to throw sparks, although it splits very well and makes excellent kindling.

**Shade Tolerance:** N/A (evergreen)

**Wildlife Value:** Used for nesting, roosting and escape cover, and the seeds are eaten by some birds and mammals.

**General Information:** Eastern redcedar can become a significant fire hazard due to its volatile oil, especially around urban areas.

### Sassafras

(*Sassafras albidum*)



Sassafras is a native, deciduous, aromatic, small tree.

**Shade Tolerance:** Intolerant of shade.

**Uses:** The wood is soft, brittle, light and has limited commercial value primarily due to its sparse scattered supply, although it has been used for fence posts, cabinets, interior finish and furniture.

**Firewood Value:** It not generally used for firewood due to its ability to throw sparks and it burns fast; although it is easy to split.

**Fall Foliage:** During the fall, the leaves turn an attractive color consisting of yellow, orange, or red.

**Wildlife Value:** Not of important value for wildlife, although the fruits (drupes) are eaten by a few species of birds and mammals. White-tailed deer browse on the leaves and twigs, and rabbits gnaw on the bark.

**General Information:** The bark from the roots of sassafras have historically been used for making tea, flavoring root beer and extracting oil for use in the perfume industry, primarily for scenting soap. Because of its durability, sassafras was also used for dugout canoes by Native Americans.

### Soapberry, Western

(*Sapindus drummondii*)



Western soapberry is a native, deciduous, small to medium sized tree. It often grows in groves or thickets particularly in sandy soils.

**Shade Tolerance:** Tolerant to partial shade but prefers full sunlight.

**Uses:** The wood is hard, strong, close grained and heavy, but it has little or no commercial value primarily due to its lack of quantity. The wood splits easily into thin strips and has been used to make frames, crates and baskets.

**Firewood Value:** Makes good firewood and is easy to split.

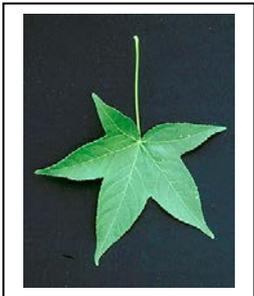
**Fall Foliage:** The leaves turn a deep yellow color in the fall.

**Wildlife Value:** It is of little value to wildlife, although it does provide hiding or resting cover for a variety of game species and furnishes nesting sites for dove and many songbirds.

**General Information:** The foaming properties of the berries, when crushed in water, create great quantities of suds and were useful to Native Americans and early settlers in making cleaners and soaps.

### Sweetgum

(*Liquidambar styraciflua*)



Sweetgum is a native, deciduous, long-lived, large sized tree.

**Shade Tolerance:** Intolerant to shade.

**Uses:** The wood is heavy, straight and close-grained but not strong. It is an important commercial hardwood tree and is used principally for lumber, veneer, plywood, railroad ties and pulpwood. Sweetgum is also a popular ornamental tree in urban areas.

**Firewood Value:** Makes good firewood when dried, although it is very difficult to split.

**Fall Foliage:** Highly prized for its red and yellow variations of showy autumn foliage.

**Wildlife Value:** Although seeds are eaten by birds and squirrels, and the snags are used as nesting sites for a variety of birds and mammals, sweetgum is not considered important for its wildlife value.

**General Information:** The resinous gum exuding from wounds was sometimes used as a chewing gum for children and as a perfuming agent in soap.

### Sycamore

(*Platanus occidentalis*)



Sycamore is a native, deciduous, large-sized, fast growing, long-lived tree. It typically occurs in areas with good soil moisture, such as along areas of deep river banks, lakes or streams.

**Shade Tolerance:** Intolerant to shade.

**Uses:** Sycamore is considered a valuable timber tree with wood that is hard, with a twisted and coarse grain, but not very strong. It is used for furniture, interior trim, boxes, pulpwood, and particle and fiber board.

**Firewood Value:** Makes good firewood, however it is very difficult to split and burns fast.

**Fall Foliage:** The leaves have very little fall color turning yellow as they begin to turn brown.

**Wildlife Value:** Sycamore is not a valuable wildlife tree, although the seeds are eaten by some birds and squirrels, and as they age, they tend to develop hollow trunks which provide shelter for a number of wildlife species.

**Walnut, Black**  
(*Juglans nigra*)



Black Walnut is a native, deciduous, large-sized, slow growing tree. It has a deep taproot and interestingly, the pith within the twigs is “chambered”.

**Shade Tolerance:** Intolerant to shade.

**Uses:** Black walnut is considered the most valuable hardwood in North America. It is highly prized for its dark-colored, heavy, straight grained, strong wood and has historically been used for furniture, flooring, veneer and a variety of specialty products including gunstocks.

**Firewood Value:** Makes good firewood and is easy to split.

**Fall Foliage:** In the fall, the leaves have very little color as they turn a dull yellow.

**Wildlife Value:** The nuts of black walnut furnish a source of food for rodents, squirrels and a variety of birds.

**General Information:** The nuts of the walnut are also used as food by humans and are harvested commercially. The hard black walnut shell is used commercially as an abrasive cleaner along with various other uses. The roots, nut husks and leaves of the black walnut exude a natural substance known as “juglone” which prevents many plants from growing within their reach. Native Americans not only used the nuts for food but also extracted black dye from the roots.

**Willow, Black**  
(*Salix nigra*)



Black willow is a native, deciduous, medium-sized, fast growing, short lived tree. It is commonly found on moist or wet soils along edges of streams, lakes, wetlands or farm ponds. Black willow has a high rooting capacity and can be propagated from limb cuttings.

**Shade Tolerance:** Intolerant to shade.

**Uses:** The wood is light, straight grained, and moderately high in shock resistance. The wood was once used extensively for artificial limbs because it is lightweight. It is used mostly for boxes and crates and occasionally for furniture core stock, novelties, doors, cabinets and pulp.

**Firewood Value:** Not commonly used for firewood because it burns fast, with low heat and tends to buildup creosote.

**Fall Foliage:** In the fall, the leaves turn a dull yellow color.

**Wildlife Value:** Not an important wildlife species although birds eat the buds and catkins, while deer eat the twigs and leaves.

**General Information:** Black willows are among the first plants to provide nectar and pollen to honey bees. Native American tribes used black willow for basketry, and treatment of fever, headache and coughs