



SHAGBARK HICKORY

Carya ovata (P. Mill.) K. Koch

Shagbark hickory is most commonly found in southern Maine on moist but well-drained soil. It has a cylindrical head and a straight, gradually tapering trunk. It reaches a height of 70 feet and a diameter of 2 feet.

The **bark** is light gray on the trunk and separates into long, loose plates, giving it a shaggy appearance.

The **leaves** are compound, alternate, 8–14 inches long; most often there are 5 leaflets, rarely seven. The 3 terminal leaflets are the largest. Leaflet margins are serrate.

The **fruit** has the thick outer husk deeply grooved at the seams. The husk separates along these grooves when ripe. The fruit is globose and is borne singly or in pairs. The edible kernel is sweet. The **twigs** are hairy or smooth and olive-gray to dark red-brown. Pith is star-shaped in cross section. Bud scales are hairy.



Shagbark hickory wood is primarily used to make pallets.





The **wood** is very strong, close-grained, heavy, hard, tough and flexible. It was formerly used in the manufacture of agricultural implements, axe and tool handles, carriages and wagons, especially the spokes and rims of the wheels. Its principal uses are now pallets, pulp and firewood.

Shagbark hickory is easily distinguished by its bark, which separates into long, loose plates.



MAINE REGISTER OF
BIG TREES 2008

Shagbark Hickory*

Circumference: 116"/133"

Height: 84'/72'

Crown Spread: 60'/58'

Location:
Falmouth/Westbrook

*TIE

