



WHITE ASH *Fraxinus americana* L.



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White ash is one of Maine's valuable timber trees and is found commonly throughout the state. Best growth occurs on rich, rather moist soil of low hills. It grows to a height of 60–70 feet and a diameter of 15–30 inches. The branches are upright or spreading, forming a narrow top in the forest.

The **bark** pattern resembles a woven basket; it is broken into broad, parallel ridges by deep furrows, and is dark brown or deep gray.

The **leaves** are opposite, 8–12 inches long and consist of 5–9 (usually 7) leaflets. The leaflets are 3–5 inches long, oval to lance-shaped, borne on short stalks, edges remotely toothed towards the tip, dark green and often shiny on the upper surface. In fall, they turn to a soft, velvety purple.

The **fruit** is a single samara occurring in clusters. The seed body is cigar-shaped and has a terminal wing.





MAINE REGISTER OF
BIG TREES 2008

White Ash
Circumference: 244"
Height: 95'
Crown Spread: 70'
Location: South Waterford

White ash twigs are hairless and have deeply notched leaf scars.

The **twigs** have a smooth, shiny bark which is grayish, greenish or maroon on the surface. The inner layer of the bark is brick red. The terminal buds are rounded or dome-shaped.

The **wood** is hard, strong and tough. It is used for agricultural implements, tool handles, oars, furniture, interior finish, dowels, pulp and firewood, and sporting goods including baseball bats, hockey sticks and snowshoe frames.

