

BLACK ASH

Fraxinus nigra Marsh.

Black or brown ash occurs is common statewide except in Sagadahoc County. It grows almost entirely on rich, moist ground or in cold, wet swamps and along the banks of streams.

It is a tall, slender tree, with slender branches and a short, narrow head. It grows to a height of 50-60 feet and a diameter of 10-20 inches. The trunk is often without branches for a considerable distance from the ground.

The **bark** is gray to dark gray, corky and spongy, with more or less parallel ridges. It rubs off freely with the hand.

The **leaves** are 12-15 inches long, opposite, and have 7-11 leaflets which are 4-5 inches long, and without stalks except the one at the tip. Leaflets are lance-shape and have remotely-toothed margins. The upper surface is dark green. There are buff-colored hairs at the junction of the leaflets and rachis.



The **fruit** is a single samara occurring in clusters. The seed is flattened and completely surrounded by the wing.

The **twigs** are smooth, gray to olive-green. The **buds** are black or brown and pointed at the tip. The inner layer of the bark is dirty white.

The **wood** is coarse-grained, heavy, tough, durable, and pliable. It is used for interior finishing, cabinet work, barrel hoops, baskets, and, to a limited extent, pulp.