

BUTTERNUT

Juglans cinerea L.

Butternut occurs naturally or in cultivation to some extent statewide. It grows on rich, moist soil and on rocky hills, especially along fence rows. It frequently has stout, spreading limbs, extending horizontally from the trunk to form a low, broad, rounded head. It is a tree 30 - 40 feet high and has a diameter of 1 - 2 feet.

The **bark** of young trees and of the branches is gray. On old trees, it is broadly ridged on the trunk and of a light brown color.



The **leaves** are compound, alternate, 15 - 30 inches long, and consist of 11 to 17 leaflets. Leaflet margins are serrate.

The **fruit** is composed of a nut enclosed by a fleshy husk

covered with sticky hairs. It is about 2½ inches long and ellipsoid in shape. Fruit is produced in drooping clusters of 3 - 5. The nut is thick-shelled with sharp ridges on the surface. Indians used the oil from the nuts for making butter.

The **twigs** are stout, greenish and hairy, with chocolate-brown, chambered pith. The large leaf scars have a conspicuous, buff-colored, hairy pad at the top. Buds are also hairy.

The **wood** is coarse-grained, light, soft, and weak. It is sometimes used for furniture and cabinet work, and takes a high polish.

