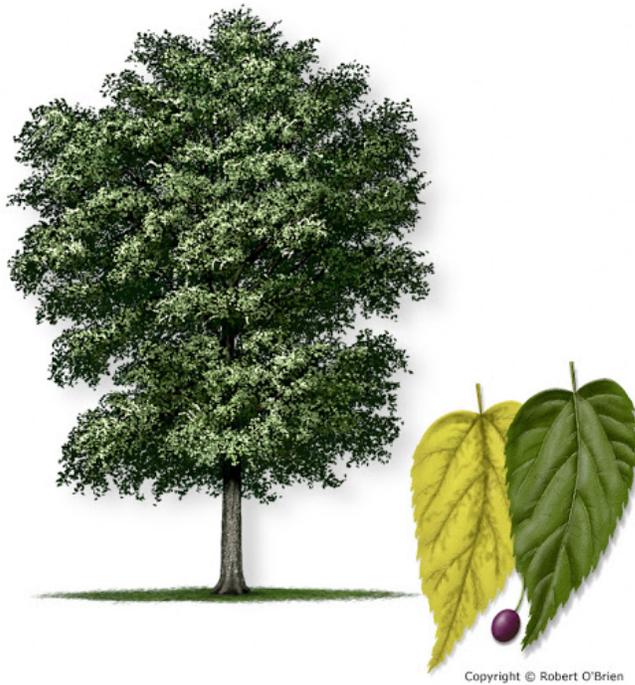


HACKBERRY

CELTIS OCCIDENTALIS

Hi my name is *CELTIS OCCIDENTALIS* but those who know me call me Hackberry. I am a medium-fast growing, large shade tree. When I have help to grow right, I can grow 14-20 inches per year. I average 30-50 feet but can grow as high as 75 feet if I have the right environment. I can live as long as 150-200 years old if you take good care of me.



I have a pretty vase like symmetrical shape that can be ideal for growing in your yard. My leaves are shaped like spearheads and are 2-4 inches long and 1-2 inches wide with small teeth edges. My leaves have an alternate bud arranged with no terminal bud. I am a monoecious plant so I produce male and female flowers on the same tree. I am also deciduous and my leaves turn yellow for autumn before they fall.

I provide an abundance of black fruits that are great food for lots of wildlife. I am a favorite of the waxwing and orioles but robins, cardinals and mockingbirds also have me high on their list. Beavers, possums, raccoons, squirrels, skunks, wild turkeys, quail and gray fox eat my hackberries. Other pollinators that like my berries are the American snout butterfly, hackberry butterfly, mourning cloak and tawny emperor butterfly. I have a butterfly named after me because they like to lay their eggs on my leaves. It's name is the Hackberry Emperor! Even humans can eat my berries. My berries are generally ready for eating mid autumn and are a dark purple pea size berry. Please do not eat any berries from plants without asking your family first!

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My bark is unique in that it has raised warty ridges on it and is light brown or silvery grey. It is a great way to identify me from other trees.

I have deep roots that spread laterally and can reach depths between 10-20 feet which make me a great species for a tree lawn that is 6 feet or wider. I am strong and my branches do not break that often so they won't do damage to your house.

I'm a great urban tree as I stand up to pollution and strong winds. I can tolerate different soils that vary in annual rainfall from as low as 14 inches to as high as 60 inches per year. I can tolerate flooding and drought as well as strong winds and salt. I do prefer full sun which means up to 6 hours of sunlight every day. I'm a great tree for preventing erosion and minimizing risk from flooding and would help the Olentangy Watershed's healthy ecosystem.

To learn more about how to plant a tree go to our website at:

www.olentangywatershed.org

I come to you as a bare root tree which means I'm a baby tree and I need to be planted right away. If you can't plant me today please put me in water to be planted within 7 days. ***Please ask an adult to call 811 before you plant me so that utilities and underground wires can be marked and avoided.*** The hole you dig must be deep and wide enough to cover my roots but not high over my trunk. **IF I AM TOO LOW I WON'T GROW, IF I AM TOO HIGH I WILL DIE.** My soil needs to stay moist so make sure I get lots of water. You can place mulch around me to keep in moisture but not right up against my small trunk.

HACKBERRY GLOSSARY

alternate bud: buds growing on a branch that are not opposite of each other, they alternate.

deciduous: a tree that sheds its leaves each year.

ecosystem: a community of interacting organisms and their physical environment.

erosion: the gradual destruction of something by wind, water, or other parts of nature.

laterally: sideways.

monoecious: having both male and female flowers on the same tree.

symmetrical: one side is the same as the other.

terminal bud: a bud on a tree usually located at the end of a plant stem.

urban: having to do with a town or city.

warty ridges: raised and bumpy in parts.

watershed: an area of land that shares common rivers and streams that drain into larger area of water