

Large Tree (over 40')
Deciduous

Native
Map #32

Common Hackberry
(*Celtis occidentalis*)
Family: *Ulmaceae*



Leaves: simple, oblong oval, serrate most of the way to the base, leaf bases meet at an angle; fall - yellow or yellow green.

Buds: alternate, shingled, oval, sharp, held against the stem on raised leaf scar.

Stems: zig zag, light olive brown, prominent lenticels.

Bark: narrow, corky projecting ridges, sometimes reduced to wart-like projections.

Flowers: not showy, small, produced on hanging stalks in dense clusters near ends of twigs.

Fruits: small, fleshy drupe (stone fruit), orange-red to dark purple.

Habit: young - dense pyramidal; varies with age from pyramidal to wide spreading

Culture: This extremely adaptable tree is tolerant of a broad range of conditions from sandy to clay soils and acidic to slightly alkaline conditions. It is also tolerant of urban conditions including soil compaction, air pollution and occasional flooding. The Common hackberry is susceptible to a variety of insect and disease problems, however, these problems fall mostly in the category of nuisance problems and do not threaten the life of the tree. Witches' broom (caused by a combination of powdery mildew, a mite and a mycoplasma), nipple gall and mite infestations are all possible and reasonably common. Most consumers will readily notice the presence of nipple galls on the leaves but may not notice the other problems. The psyllid insects that cause the leaf nipple galls can be an annoying nuisance in the fall of the year as adults fly and seek residence in nearby homes. This tree is also susceptible to injury by Dicamba herbicide used over its root zone. This species tends to readily seed into surrounding areas. This species is widely used as a large shade tree in parks and home landscapes because of its cultural adaptability and relatively rapid growth rate.

Cultivars: 'Prairie Pride'
'Chicagoland'

Miscellaneous: Vase-shaped habit made it an alternative for American Elm as a street tree. The effect was not similar enough and the problems of nipple gall and witches broom made it unsuitable to plant in large numbers.



Mature habit

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