

Shagbark Hickory



GARDEN EARTH
NATURALIST
ECO-SERVICE CARDS

SHAGBARK HICKORY

Carya ovata (Mill.)K. Koch

FAMILY: Juglandaceae

IDENTIFICATION CLUES



SIZE: large tree, 70 - 90 feet tall



LEAF: compound with 5 oval leaflets, each leaflet 3 -7 inches long with the terminal leaflet being the longest. Leaflets are toothed around the edge and hairy underneath



FLOWER: female flowers are small and inconspicuous; males flowers in a catkin, usually three in a cluster



FRUIT: a rounded nut with a thick hull and edible seed



BARK: gray and shaggy (flaking), hence the name



Where to Look

Shagbark hickory occurs throughout the Georgia foothills and mountains, southwest Georgia and the Piedmont. It is typically found along rivers and streams and swampy areas.

Importance to Humans

The wood of shagbark hickory is very strong and is used for hammer and axe handles. It also makes excellent fuel for smoking meat.

Importance to Wildlife

Squirrels and other small mammals enjoy eating the sweet hickory nuts.