

# Hackberry

*Celtis occidentalis*



- **Plant Characteristics:** In youth pyramidal, in old age the crown is a broad top of ascending arching branches, often with drooping branchlets.
- **Habitat:** Quebec to Manitoba, south to North Carolina, Alabama, Georgia and Oklahoma.
- **Size:** Height: 40—60 ft.  
Width: 40—60 ft.
- **Foliage:** 2-5" in length with long oval shape, light to medium green above to paler and lightly hairy below.
- **Flower:** Small and greenish in April—May.
- **Fruit:** Fleshy, yellow, orange-red to dark purple rounded drup, 1/3" diameter, flavored like dates, will shatter teeth if bitten into.
- **Bark:** Bark has a coarse texture with warty projections.
- **Soil:** Prefers rich, moist soils, but grows in dry, heavy or sandy, rocky soils.

- **Tolerances:** Wind
  - **USDA Hardiness Zone:** zone 3
  - **Light Range:** Full sun
  - **Other:**
    - Medium rate of growth
    - Relished by birds and wildlife
    - Withstands acid or alkaline conditions
- is a native American species in the elm family, also known as sugarberry, hoop ash, and bastard elm. The wood is sometimes marketed as elm. The name comes from the fruit of the tree, a drupe of small purple berries which are sweet and attract songbirds. The berries turn purple before ripening fully and in this state are very sour – hence the "hack".