

HACKBERRY

Celtis occidentalis L

AKA common hackberry, sugarberry, nettle tree, beaver wood, northern hackberry, and American hackberry.



Description: The bark is warty like sugarberry. The leaves are broader, more heavily toothed, and rougher above than the much more common Sugarberry (*C. laevigata*), which is also a large tree of wet habitats. Dwarf Hackberry (*C. tenuifolia*) is similar, but is a shrub or small tree of drier areas with slightly smaller leaves that are less regularly toothed at the base. The

cherry like dark purple/reddish fruits often hang on the trees throughout the winter providing many birds with food.

Natural Habitat: Forested bottom land

Conservation Status: Threatened in New Hampshire

Size: 30 - 40' Tall and 1 - 2 feet diameter

Growth Rate: Moderate

Light: Tolerates part shade to full sun

Planting and Care: Hackberry is drought resistant and can survive extremely dry periods. It can survive and grow in most types of soil, from the poorest to the richest. Sites with a permanently high water table are unfavorable for hackberry, although periodic flooding is not detrimental.

Landscape Usage: Hackberry is planted as a street tree because of its tolerance to a wide range of soil and moisture conditions.

Commercial/Traditional Uses: Wood is used in inexpensive furniture, in baskets, fence posts and crates and also in some athletic equipment.

Wildlife Benefits: Hackberry seed is eaten by animals. The fruit is eaten also by quail, ring-necked pheasant, wild turkey, cedar waxwings, sharp-tailed grouse, yellow-bellied sapsuckers, mockingbirds, robins, and other birds. 3 species of butterflies, Hackberry Emperor, Tawny Emperor, and American Snout, feed on the leaves as larvae.