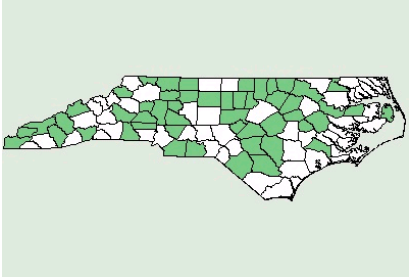


BLACK WALNUT

Juglans nigra

A nice shade tree for a large area. Though hard to extract from their shells, the nuts are edible.



Description: Medium to large deciduous tree. Yellow-green flowers appear in late spring, the male flowers in drooping hairy catkins and the female flowers in short terminal spikes. Female flowers give way to edible nuts, each encased in a yellow-green husk. Nuts mature in autumn, falling to the ground where the husks blacken as they rot away. Fall color is an undistinguished yellow.

Natural Habitat: Eastern U.S. Grows in rich woods and along streams in most N.C. counties.

Conservation Status: Abundant throughout its range.

Size: 50-70' height and width.

Growth Rate: Slow to moderate.

Light: Full sun.

Planting and Care: Prefers moist, organically rich, well-drained soils. Intolerant of shade. Prune in June or December to encourage the growth of a central shoot.

Landscape Usage: Shade tree for large landscapes. Vegetation growing under black walnut trees is different than that found under surrounding species. Nuts can be messy in fall.

Food Value: The nuts can be eaten plain or with honey and used to flavor cakes and candy. Young trees will sometimes begin producing nuts when 4-6 years old, but it usually takes 20 years before a tree will produce a large crop.

Commercial/Traditional Uses: Black walnut wood is heavy, strong, and highly resistant to shock. It's used principally in furniture and gunstocks. The ground shells of black walnut are used as a nonslip agent in automobile tires and as a filtering agent for scrubbers in smokestacks. The airline industry uses the ground shells to clean jet engines. Native Americans and early pioneers extracted black dye from the roots and nut hulls.

Wildlife Benefits: Squirrels eat the nuts.