



green ash

Fraxinus pennsylvanica

Kingdom: Plantae
Division/Phylum: Anthophyta
Class:
Order:
Family:

FEATURES

The deciduous green, or red, ash tree may grow to a height of 60 feet and a diameter of two and one-half feet. Its bark is light or dark gray with diamond-shaped furrows between flat-topped scaly, ridges. The pinnately compound leaves are arranged oppositely on the stem. Each leaf has seven to nine lance-shaped leaflets. Each leaflet may be six inches long and one and one-half inches wide. The leaflet is toothed along the edges, green on both sides, smooth on the top and hairy on the bottom. Leaves turn red-brown or yellow in the fall. The male (staminate) and female (pistillate) flowers are borne on separate trees. The flower is small, purple and lacking petals. The winged fruits, samaras, are lance-shaped, up to two and one-half inches long and contain a single seed at the base.

BEHAVIORS

The green ash may be found in scattered locations throughout Illinois. This tree grows in bottomland forests. It flowers in April and May as its leaves begin to unfold. Its hard, strong wood is used for interior finishing and for making tool handles and baseball bats.

HABITATS

- bottomland forests
- coniferous forest
- southern Illinois lowlands
- upland deciduous forest

ILLINOIS STATUS

- common
- endangered
- threatened
- native
- exotic

ILLINOIS RANGE

Permanent resident: statewide

Summer resident:

Migrant:

Winter resident:

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.
Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume 2: Woodland Habitats CD-ROM.