



## **northern hackberry**

*Celtis occidentalis*

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

### **FEATURES**

The deciduous northern hackberry tree may grow to 80 feet tall with a trunk diameter of five feet. Its bark is gray and “warty” becoming scaly and rough on old trees. The simple leaves are arranged alternately on the stem. Each leaf is oval to lance-shaped and is uneven at its base. The leaf is usually coarsely toothed and may be six inches long and three inches wide. The flowers are arranged in drooping clusters (sometimes singly). The flower is green-yellow with no petals. The dark purple fruit is nearly round, about one-third inch in diameter. Each fruit contains one seed. The fruit ripens in September and October.

### **BEHAVIORS**

The northern hackberry may be found statewide in Illinois. This tree grows in low woodlands. The northern hackberry flowers in April and May after its leaves are partially grown. Its heavy, soft, pale yellow wood is used for making fence posts and furniture.

### **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.