



dwarf hackberry

Celtis tenuifolia

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

FEATURES

The dwarf hackberry is a deciduous tree that grows to 25 feet tall. Its trunk diameter reaches a maximum size of about 10 inches. Its crown is irregular and has many slender branches sticking up from it. The bark is gray. The bark is smooth on young trees but becomes rough and scaly with “warts” on older trees. The buds are small, gray-brown and covered with hairs. The simple leaves are arranged alternately along the stem. Each leaf is pointed at the tip and rounded or heart-shaped at the base. The leaf may be three inches long and about one and one-half inches wide and may or may not have teeth along the edges. The green-yellow flowers are without petals and arranged in small clusters. The spherical, red-purple fruit is about one-half inch in diameter and contains one seed.

BEHAVIORS

Dwarf hackberry may be found in the southern tip of Illinois and in the counties along the Mississippi River. It grows on the edge of bluffs and in woods. Flowers appear soon after the leaves begin to grow in the spring. The fruits ripen in September and October. The wood of this tree is used for fence posts.

HABITATS

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

ILLINOIS STATUS

- common
- endangered
- threatened
- native
- exotic

ILLINOIS RANGE

Permanent resident: Mississippi River border counties + southern tip

Summer resident:

Migrant:

Winter resident:

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.

Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume 2: Woodland Habitats CD-ROM.