



sugarberry

Celtis laevigata

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

FEATURES

The sugarberry is also known as the southern hackberry or Mississippi hackberry. This deciduous tree may grow to a height of 75 feet with a trunk diameter of up to two and one-half feet. Its crown is open and broad. The bark is gray and warty. The brown or gray buds are slender, pointed and up to one-eighth inch long. The simple leaves are arranged alternately along the stem. The lance-shaped leaf is asymmetrical at its base. Each leaf may be up to six inches long. The yellow-green flowers are arranged in drooping clusters. The flowers lack petals. The fruit is nearly round, red-orange to yellow and about one-fourth inch in diameter. Each fruit contains one seed.

BEHAVIORS

The sugarberry may be found in the southern one-half of Illinois. It grows in a variety of locations from low woods to dry hilltops. Flowering occurs from April through May. The fruits ripen in September and October. The wood of this tree is used for fence posts and for making furniture.

HABITATS

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

ILLINOIS STATUS

- common
- endangered
- threatened
- native
- exotic

ILLINOIS RANGE

Permanent resident: southern 1/2

Summer resident:

Migrant:

Winter resident:

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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