



## mockernut hickory

*Carya tomentosa*

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

### FEATURES

The mockernut hickory is also called the white hickory. This deciduous tree may grow to a height of 90 feet with a trunk diameter of three feet. The crown is rounded. The dark gray bark has shallow furrows that often produce a diamond-shaped pattern. The red-brown, hairy buds are about one inch in length. The pinnately compound leaves are arranged alternately along the stem. Each leaf has five to nine leaflets, and each leaflet may be up to eight inches long and four inches wide. The leaflet is finely toothed along the edge. The yellow-green leaflet is hairy on the upper surface and paler and hairy on the lower surface. The leafstalks and twigs are also hairy. Male and female flowers are separate but located on the same tree. The tiny flowers do not have petals. The staminate, or male, flowers are arranged in drooping catkins. The pistillate, or female, flowers are in groups of two to five. The fruit is generally spherical, about two inches wide with a red-brown husk. The red-brown nut has a small, sweet seed.

### BEHAVIORS

The mockernut hickory may be found in the southern two-thirds of Illinois. It grows on dry, wooded slopes and in shaded woods. Flowers are produced in the spring after the leaves have begun to unfold. The wood of this tree is used for tool handles, as fuel and 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: southern 2/3

Summer resident:

Migrant:

Winter resident:

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

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