

White walnut

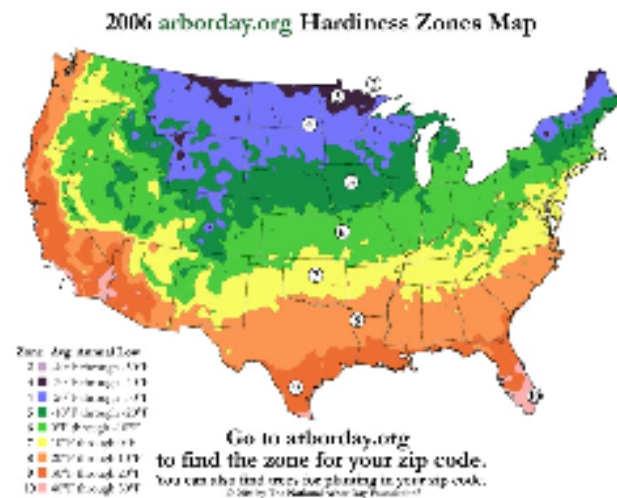
Juglans Cinerea

White Walnut AKA Butternut AKA Oilnut

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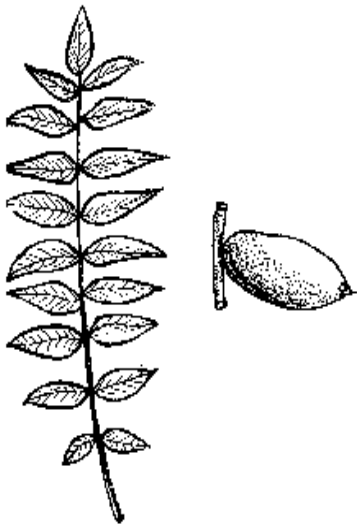
Juglandaceae

The White Walnut tree is a deciduous tree with light grey bark. The white walnut can grow 100 feet tall with a life expectancy of 75 years. It is a fast growing tree but is rather short-lived. The white walnut tree is the most cold-hardy of all walnut trees, growing in zones 3-9. It is native to the eastern United States and southeast Canada, from southern Quebec to west Minnesota, south to northern Alabama, and southwest to northern Arkansas. The roots of these trees, like black walnut trees, will exude a poisonous chemical that kills other plants (phytotoxic) growing nearby, thus other vegetation does not grow well if located within 80 feet of the trunk of the tree. The tree has a broader, leafy canopy than other walnut trees, but the wood is soft and inferior.



The White Walnut is not listed as threatened federally in the US, but is listed as "Special Concern" in Kentucky, "Exploitably Vulnerable" in New York State, and "Threatened" in Tennessee. The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada placed the Butternut on the endangered species list in Canada in 2005. The Butternut is seriously threatened by an introduced canker disease, caused by the fungus *Sirococcus clavigignenti-juglandacearum* (Butternut canker). In some areas, 90% of the Butternut trees have been killed. *Sirococcus clavigignenti-juglandacearum* causes lenial and broad cankers on the trunk, branches,

young twigs, and exposed roots. Most cankers are covered with bark cracks and shredded bark above cankers in late stages.



The leaves of the White Walnut are pinnate, 40-70 cm long, with 11-17 leaflets; each leaflet is 5-10 cm long and 3-5 cm broad. The flowers are yellow-green catkins produced in spring at the same time as the new leaves appear. The fruit is a nut, produced in bunches of 2-6 together; the nut is 3-6 cm long and 2-4 cm broad, surrounded by a green husk before maturity in mid autumn.



The White Walnut tree does have commercial uses. The nuts are richly flavored and said to be superior in flavor over all other walnuts. The wood from this tree is soft but easy to work with, and small amounts are used for furniture and cabinets. Historically, butternut was considered an excellent source of nuts, for both oil and fabric dye applications. Even the sap was collected and made into syrup. More recently, butternut has been recognized as a great craft wood and a superior species for intricate wood carving.



The life expectancy of the White Walnut tree is:

- A. 150 years
- B. 25 years
- C. 75 years
- D. 200 years
- E. 180 years



References:

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