

QuickTime™ and a  
decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

## Leaf Characteristics

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- Leaves are 8-15 inches long and opposite
- Pinnately Compound
- 5-9 (usually 7) leaflets
- Margins are entire or obscurely serrated round toothed
- Dark green and glabrous on top, bottom is white or pale
- Bases broadly wedged to rounded

## Growing Conditions

The White Ash grows best in rich, moist soils that are well drained. Their geographical range goes all the way from Nova Scotia west to Minnesota, and south to northern Florida and eastern Texas.

## Pop Quiz!

What is one way to distinguish the White Ash from the Green Ash?

- A. The leaves are whorled
- B. The trunk is smooth
- C. The undersides of the leaves are dark green
- D. The fruit is twice as big
- E. All of the above

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## References

[http://www.landscape-america.com/landscapes/trees/white\\_ash.html](http://www.landscape-america.com/landscapes/trees/white_ash.html)

<http://home.howstuffworks.com/white-ash-tree.htm>

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# White Ash

Fraxinus  
Americana



Becca Hartz



## TREE CHARACTERISTICS

- The White Ash grows to be 70-80 feet, sometimes even as tall as 100 feet
- Has a common diameter of 2-3, but often is as large as 5 feet
- Long, straight trunk with a distinctive diamond pattern
- Fruits are light brown and 1-2 inches long. They are in the shape of a small paddle, with a plump seed portion and wings extending down the sides.
- Flowers appear in April or May, lasting only 2-3 weeks
- Flowers are ¼ inch long, purplish and appear in small clusters

## COMMON USES

The wood of the White Ash is very tough and strong. It is also highly resistant to shock. For these reasons, the wood is commonly used for baseball bats, handles and oars. It is also used to make furniture and railroad ties. White Ash is considered to produce the best source of firewood because it burns hot and produces little smoke.



## HOW TO DISTINGUISH FROM OTHER ASH TREES

The White Ash can often be mistaken for the Green Ash; they are very similar in leaflet size and shape. However, the undersides of the White Ash leaflets are white or pale, and covered with microscopic rounded projections. Also, the twigs are glabrous and the fruit is twice as thick as the fruit of the Green Ash.

## COMMON THREATS TO TREE

The White Ash is prone to developing leaf anthracnose. It can also develop trunk cankers. Common pests include the Emerald Ash borer and scales.