

Growing Conditions

The blue ash is part of the Olive family, and typically grows in areas with relatively dry soils.

It is found primarily in Western Ohio because of the presence of limestone, which creates alkaline soils (high pH).

It generally has a slow growth rate, and at maturity averages 40' across the crown, and 80' in height.

Common Uses

The blue ash yields a high quality dense wood that is often used in the production of tool handles, furniture, and firewood.

POP QUIZ!

How can you determine a blue ash from other varieties of ash trees?

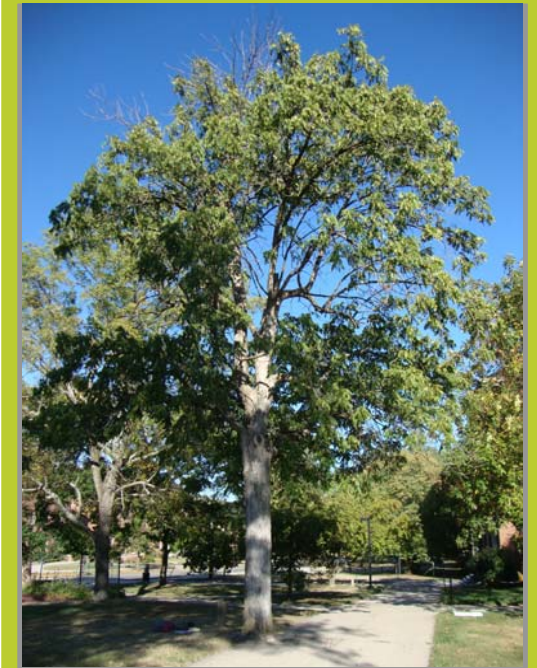
- A) It is the only variety infested by the ash borer
- B) It has distinct palmately compound leaflets
- C) It has perfect flowers
- D) It only has male trees
- E) It has only female trees

References:

http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/Home/trees/ash_bl/tabid/5329/Default.aspx

http://www.oplin.org/tree/fact%20pages/ash_blue/ash_blue.html

Grimm, William Carey. The Illustrated Book of Trees: with Keys for Summer and Winter Identification. Harrisburg, PA: Stackpole, 1983. Print.



Blue Ash

Fraxinus Quadrangulata

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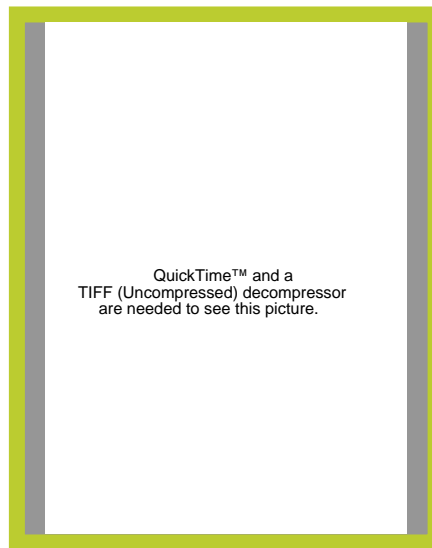
Fruit Identification

- Samara fruit
- Rounded or notched at the apex
- Flat seed in comparison to other ash trees

QuickTime™ and a
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

Problems with the species

The Emerald Ash Borer is the largest threat to the blue ash. It is a harmful pest from Asia that has no known natural enemy in the U.S. This beetle has infected a huge population of trees and continues to be a major threat.



Defining Characteristics

In comparison to other ash trees, the blue ash is characterized by its four sided, squared twigs.

At maturity, its light gray bark is scaly rather than deeply ridged like many other ash trees.

The blue ash has perfect flowers, meaning there are no singly male or singly female trees.

Historically, the blue ash has been used for the blue dye found in the center.



Leaf Characteristics

- Leaflets are opposite
- Pinnately Compound
- 7-10 leaflets per leaf
- Margins are smooth to finely serrated
- Leaf undersides are fuzzy along the midrib
- Stipule scars in “U” or “D” shapes along the twigs
- Fall colors are green to pale yellow
- Short stalks