What's with the leaves?

The Sassafrass is a very unique tree. The leaves are all entire but they vary in the number of lobes. The leaves can have no lobes (pictured in the bottom right corner) they can also have 2 lobes resembeling a mitten (pictured below) and they can also have three lobes (top right hand corner)

The Sassafras was used to brew tea and soda

Sassafras

SASSAFRAS ALBIDUM

This tree has many distinct characteristics including the variable lobing of the leaves, the spicy odor given off from a crushed leaf and the yellowish green

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MORE ABOUT SASSAFRAS ALBIDUM

Characteristics of the Sassafras

Fairly short tree only 20 to 40 feet tall

-Leaves obovate to ovate

-Leaf margins entire

-Leaves have 0 to 3 lobes

-Leaves slightly hairy underneath

-Leaves 3-6 inches long, 2-4 inches wide

-The fruit is a Drupe

Which of the following can Sassafrass oil cause?

A) Abortions
B) Liver Cancer
C) Receding Hairline
D) Only A and B

COOL FACTS

The Sassafrass flowers very early in the spring making this tree very popular among various insects and birds. Among these are honey bees, songbirds and the spicebrush swallowtail butterfly. One of this this butterfly's larval host plant is none other than the Sassafrass without which this butterfly would not be able to survive. In the fall the Sassafras turns yellow, orange, and red making it a beautiful tree. The Sassafras is a tree that grows very quickly. In fact in the first year a Sassafras can grow 4 ft (1.2 m) and 15 ft (4.6 m) in four years.

Diseases

The Sassafras is at risk for a dangerous fungus carried by ambrosia beetles.

History of the Sassafrass

The Sassafrass's inner bark was one of the first commercial products young America sent back to Europe. It was used as a flavoring for Root Beer. Also the Native Americans used the Sassafras for medicinal purposes. The tree was used to kill worms and treat such symptoms as diarrhea, constipation and fever.

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