

# Black Walnut Tree

*Juglans nigra*

History

Geographical Range

Tree Characteristics

Practical Uses

Extra Fun Facts



## Extra Fun Facts

### Butterflies



The walnut tree is inhabited by the Banded Hairstreak butterfly when it is in caterpillar form.

### Pests

- This particular species suffers from a variety of pests and diseases including:
  - parasitic nematodes
  - mistletoe
  - fusarium canker
  - bacterial blight
  - white trunk rot
  - cylindrocaradium root rot.



The emerald ash borer is a deadly parasitic beetle of the ash tree. However, the beetle has been found on walnut trees in Asia. Therefore, the pest could be adapting to tree species.

### Environmental Concerns

*Juglone*, a mild toxin excreted from the black walnut, may cause problems to neighboring gardens or landscapes.



## References

[http://plants.usda.gov/plantguide/pdf/cs\\_juni.pdf](http://plants.usda.gov/plantguide/pdf/cs_juni.pdf)

[www.emeraldashborer.info/files/hostrange.pdf](http://www.emeraldashborer.info/files/hostrange.pdf)

<http://www.butterfliesandmoths.org/species?l=1500>

<http://www.sfp.forprod.vt.edu/factsheets/walnut.pdf>

Multiple Choice Question:

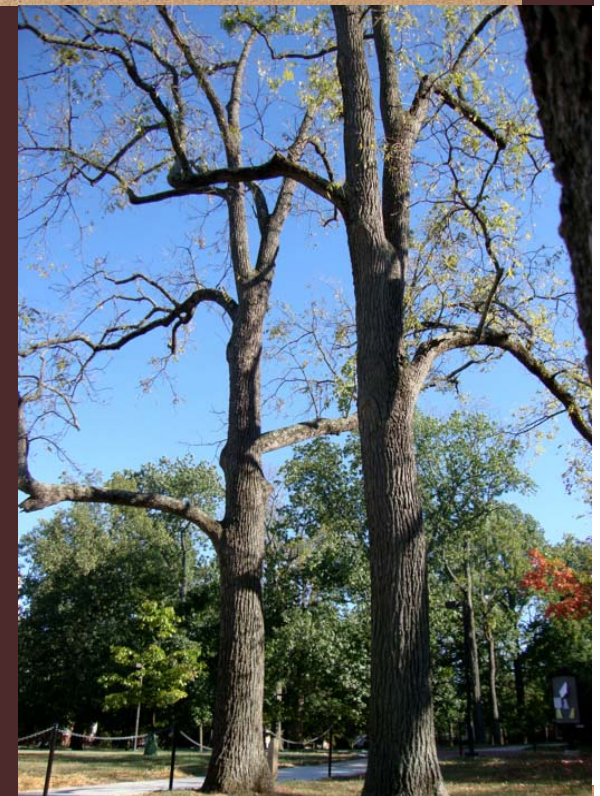
Which of the following is not a common modern use of the black walnut tree?

- a) shade
- b) food
- c) medicine
- d) wood crafts

# All You Need to Know About

## THE WALNUT TREE

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## History

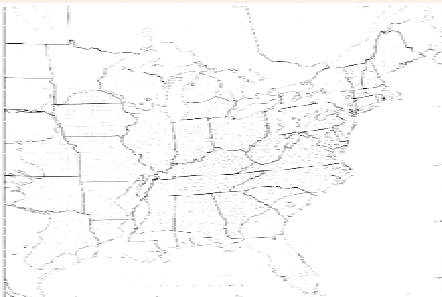
Also known as the “American Walnut”, this highly sought after tree is mainly known for its fine straightgrained wood.

Its history can be traced back a very long time. American Indians used to chew the inner bark when they had toothaches. Ancient Greeks and Romans used the walnut to cure *Cutaneous mycoses*, a fungal infection that reaches deep into the human’s epidermis.



## Geographical Range

The black walnut grows throughout the central and eastern parts of the United States, especially in the Appalachians and the Midwest.



Native range of black walnut  
Electronic source: Williams, R., 1990

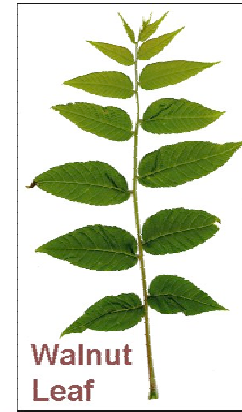
## Tree Characteristics



↑  
Size

The tree usually ranges from 70-90 feet tall and the trunk usually 2-4 feet in diameter. Its large crown makes it a great tree for shade.

↓



Walnut  
Leaf

## Leaves

- Leaves are 1-2 feet long, alternate, pinnately compound. They have 9-23 leaflets, which have no supporting stalk. Pith is chambered.
- Both male and female flowers are born on the same tree.

## Fruit

- 1 to 2.5 inches in diameter and spherical shaped.
- Walnuts are usually found by themselves or in groups of 2 or 3.
- The fruits have a husk that is thick and semi-fleshy. It is covered with short hairs and are yellowish-green in color.

## Modern Practical Uses

Walnut lumber serves as an excellent wood finish. It is also popular in making guns, because the wood can absorb shock very well. Walnut wood is most used for making furniture, woodcrafts, musical instruments, decorative panels, and flooring. However, since walnut lumber is becoming less and less, it is increasingly being used as a veneer.

The walnut is a rich source of nutrients and can be stored very easily. The kernel of the nut is commonly seen in cakes and candies. One could also just go buy a jar of walnuts from the grocery store for some raw gratification.

