

The Shellbark Hickory

General Information:

- Scientific Name: *Carya illinoensis*
- Is a member of the Juglandaceae Family (Walnut Family)
- This tree grows best in moist, deep soil
 - The tree mainly ranges in the Midwest, including the states of Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Iowa
 - Most prominent in Southern Ohio

Distinguishing Features:

- Most closely related to the Shagbark Hickory, however it's leaves are much larger, and contain 7 leaflets instead of 5
- The nuts of the Shellbark hickory are the largest of the hickory's, which has earned the tree its nickname of "Kingnut"
- The Shellbark Hickory is different from its relatives in that it requires more moisture than the Shagbark Hickory, pignut, and mocker nut

Tree Reproduction:

- The shellbark hickory is a monoecious plant
- The male flower develops from the axils of leaves of the last growing season, while the female flowers mature as short spikes in the current leaf buds.
- The Pollen is dependent on wind for transportation
- Fruit and Seeds:
 - Contains the largest nut of any Hickory
 - Ripens between September and November
 - The seed needs 90-115 days of cold before it can begin germination
 - The tree relies on animals, particularly squirrels, to distribute the seeds

Damaging Agents:

- Seed reproduction is harmed by both the hickory shuckworm and the pecan weevil.
- The hickory beetle severely weakens the strength of the tree, and is especially threatening to young trees
- Also, the tree is a common host for over 130 types of fungi, which can cause complications for the targeted part of the tree (trunk, roots, leaves, etc.)

Special Uses:

- The nut of the Shellbark Hickory is very sweet and edible
- Serves as a food source for ducks, quails, squirrels, deer, chipmunks, foxes, and mice.
- The wood is easy to work with and durable, therefore used in furniture, wooden tools, wheel barrels, fuelwood and several other consumer products



Works Cited

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- Schlesinger, Richard. "Carya laciniosa." N.p., n.d. Web. 20 Sep 2011.
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Multiple Choice:

What animal does the Shellbark Hickory rely on to spread its seeds?

- A. Deer
- B. Humans
- C. Squirrel
- D. Cows