



Question:

The Bitter-Nut Hickory is a part of the:

- a. Pea Family
- b. Elm Family
- c. Walnut Family
- d. Mulberry Family

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Bitter-nut Hickory

Carya cordiformis



BY: ANDREW SHERLEY



ABOUT THE TREE

The Bitter-Nut Hickory is a member of the Walnut family.

The Bitter-Nut hickory tends to be very slender and is quite tall as well, with a height of between 50 and 75 feet or 60 to 80 feet depending on your source.

During the summer months the leaves of the Bitter-Nut Hickory are between 6 to 10 inches long. The leaves are alternate, and are pinnately compound, with between 9 and 11 leaflets.

The fruit of the tree, which is a nut, ranges from $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch to an inch and a half. They have a thin shell, with "intensely bitter and puckery kernels" (Grimm 256.)

During the winter the twigs are more slender. Their color tends to become a grayish brown, and they have some hair on them.

LOCATION AND OTHER FACTS

According to Wikipedia grows all across the eastern United States, from Vermont, all the way over to Minnesota, and then South all the way to Florida. There are also parts of Canada that the tree grows. The tree is found throughout the state of Ohio. It is thought that the Bitter-Nut Hickory is "the most abundant and most uniformly distributed of all the hickories" (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carya_cordiformis.)

The Bitter-Nut Hickory tree seems to be able to deal with a diverse number of soil types, although moist soils with a lot of room to grow are preferred.

According to Ohio.gov there are no real threats to the Bitter-Nut hickory in terms of diseases or pests. Along with this the tree seems to be growing at a very rapid rate.



OTHER INTERESTING FACTS

The Bitter-Nut hickory is a great wood to use for things like furniture, paneling, ladders, and tools because it is a hard wood and very durable.

The wood from Bitter-Nut Hickories is used to smoke meat.

Due to the hard, durable nature of the wood, Native Americans used the tree to make their bows.



