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The white ash is the most useful native ash in North America, a great source of timber. The wood is strong, hard, and elastic. It is used for making furniture, handles, railroad ties and even athletic equipment. It is also used in medicine, when curing fevers, sores, and swellings and even as a tonic for women after childbirth.

It is a great source of firewood, as it does not smoke and burns hot.

Also used as a "shade tree".

Question: What sport uses this famous tree to create their equipment?

- A. Tennis
- B. Baseball
- C. Hunting
- D. All of the above

References:

[http://www.oplin.org/tree/fact%20pages/ash\\_white/ash\\_white.html](http://www.oplin.org/tree/fact%20pages/ash_white/ash_white.html)

[http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/database/documents/pdf/tree\\_fact\\_sheets/fraamea.pdf](http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/database/documents/pdf/tree_fact_sheets/fraamea.pdf)



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#### Insect & Fungal Pests/ Problems

The white ash is not only home to a lot of animals but also provides them with food and is very important to the ecological environment.

Pests: Borers and scales –Emerald Ash Borer, pest brought accidentally to North America from Asia, attacks native ash species, and is very destructive.

Fungi: leaf spot fungi are common in forests and cause early defoliation of the white ash.



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Tree Presentation – White Ash

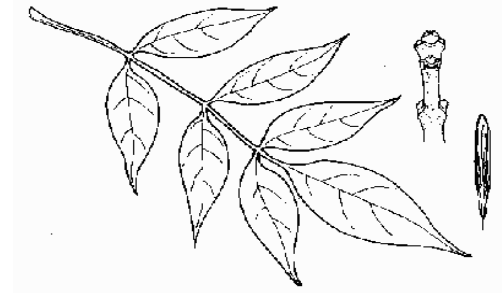


# White Ash

Fraxinus americana L.

# White Ash

The white ash is the largest out of the native ashes in North America, and is the most valuable provider of lumber.



**Family:** Oleaceae

**Life History:** unknown specific date, however it is seen early in ancient mythology. In the Norse mythology, it is the tree that supports the heavens while the roots cross in the underworld.

**Native Range:** native to eastern and central North America. Ranges from Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia to northern Florida in the East, and from eastern Minnesota to Texas in the West.

**Lifespan:** 260 years, on average

**Mature height:** 50 – 80 feet, some can be over 100 feet

**Mature spread:** 40 to 60 feet

**Diameter (tree trunk):** 2 – 4 feet

**Crown shape:** oval or round

**Bark/Tree Trunk:** trunk growing mostly upright, with almost no branches on the bottom, thick dark grey-brown bark

**Soil:** grows best in rich, moist and well-drained soils

**Growth rate:** medium/rapid

**Leaf /Stem Characteristics:** leaves opposite, deciduous, pinnately compound, 8 to 15 inches long (stem), 5-9 leaflets (usually 7), dark green above and paler white beneath, they turn yellow, red or purple in autumn, each leaflet 2.5 – 5 inches long, leaflets are ovate or lanceolate, with entire or serrately round toothed margins, usually smooth

**Flower Characteristics:** ¼ inch long, male and female flowers occur on separate trees, purplish, in small clusters, usually appear before the leaves in April/May, and often too small to be seen

**Fruit Characteristics:** known as samaras, 1-2 inches long, usually dry, light brown, with a plump seed inside and wings down both sides, are on the female trees, attract birds