

Pests & Enemies

Shellbark Hickories do not have any specific pests that threaten their growth and development. However, the hickory family as a whole has a number of pests that pry in their trunks. The Hickory Bark Beetle, the Hickory Spiral Borer, and the Flathead Apple Tree Borer are just a few of the insects that threaten the hickory family. These pests are usually not life threatening for the Shellbark but they do have the potential to cause some stem distortion and stunting of growth. The species is a host for many forms of fungi (around 130). Stem canker and leaf disease are two common fungi known to live in hickories.



History and Geography

The Shellbark Hickory is also known as Shagbark Hickory, Kingnut, Bigleaf Shagbark, among various other names. It is found throughout much of the eastern Midwest in states such as Ohio, Illinois, and Michigan and it is also found as south as Texas and as northeast as Maine. They grow best along bottomlands that are very moist. They grow slowly (around 2-3 mm or .08-.22 in per year) and are on average around 20-30 meters tall. They develop a big taproot that grows deeply in rich, fertile soils. Secondary roots extend from the taproot at right angles. It can grow efficiently in shaded areas.

Haley Simpson



Carya laciniosa

Shellbark Hickory

Juglandaceae Family

Interesting Facts

The wood of the Shellbark Hickory is used for a variety of purposes. It is very thick and strong making it an ideal choice for tool handles, furniture, and cabinets. It is also used often for lumber.

The bark peels away from the trunk much like a shell, which is where its common name comes from.

Following a fire or cutting, Shellbark Hickories are resilient and they sprout again very quickly.



Characteristics

Fruit

The Shellbark Hickory fruits are brown spheres with a thick shell and are around 4-5 cm in diameter. The nuts inside the shell are the largest of all hickories, hence the nickname "Kingnut." They are edible and sweet, cream/tan colored, and produced from September to October.

Leaves

The leaves of the Shellbark Hickory are much longer than the typical leaf. They run around 15 to 24 inches long and are pinnately compound in groups of 5 to 9. They are shiny dark green on the upper surface and paler green/yellow and usually hairy underneath. They have finely to sharply toothed margins and are narrowly-pointed and elliptically-shaped. Leaves on this tree are late arrivals and have early departures compared to other trees. The leaves don't begin to grow until May/June and can fall as early as September.

Flowers

The flowers on the shellbark hickory appear from April until June. The female flowers develop as short spikes while the male flowers are thinner and longer developing from axils of leaves from the previous season. Male and female flowers grow on the same tree making the shellbark hickory monoecious.

Stem

The stem of a mature Shellbark is fairly shaggy and peels away from the tree, but this does not occur as often as its close relative, the Shagbark Hickory.



Test Question & References

Question:

Which of the following is not a characteristic of the Shellbark Hickory leaves?

- A. Pinnately compound
- B. Lobed margins
- C. Glabrous upper surface, hairy lower surface
- D. Elliptically Shaped

References

1. http://plants.usda.gov/plantguide/pdf/pg_calaz1.pdf
2. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carya_laciniosa
3. http://ohiodnr.com/forestry/trees/hickory_shl/tabid/5375/Default.aspx
4. <http://plants.usda.gov/java/charProfile?symbol=CALA21>