

# White Ash

## Interesting Uses:

- *Baseball Bats*
- *Tool Handles*
- *Oars*
- *Lobster Traps*
- *Snake Bite Preventive*
- *Seeds are eaten by Wood Duck, Bob White, Purple Finch, and Fox Squirrel*



Found from Nova Scotia to Minnesota, and as far south as Southwest Texas and Northern Florida

## Sources:

[http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/trees/ash\\_wh/abid/5333/Default.aspx](http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/trees/ash_wh/abid/5333/Default.aspx)

<http://www.wildwnc.org/education/trees/white-ash>

<http://www.sfrc.ufl.edu/4h/Whiteash/whiteash.htm>

The Illustrated Book of Trees –  
William Carey Grimm

William A. Griffith  
GRIFFIWA@muohio.edu

Answer: B.) Though the White Ash grows mainly in moist or wet areas, it remains highly resistant to heat.

"Trees are the Earth's endless effort to speak to the listening Heaven."  
- Rabindranath Tagor.



# White Ash

*Fraxinus Americana L.*

# Life History

Seeds generally fall up to 460' from the original tree, and take 2-3 months to germinate. The vegetative buds usually begin to grow in April or May. It may take anywhere from 3-15 years for a White Ash tree to reach five feet in height. Once it reaches that general height range, however, the root system and taproot is well developed and the tree will grow rapidly. The maximum lifespan of a White ash is usually around 300 years.

Below: The White Ash is a host plant for the Tiger Swallowtail.



What is one of the most ironic things about the White Ash?

- A) Its roots grow no more than 1' deep.
- B) Though it grows mainly in wet areas, it is highly resistant to heat.
- C) The flowers bloom blue in the wintertime.
- D) The bark was used to build early model dentures.
- E) The seeds have the ability to germinate multiple times.



## Fast Facts: White Ash (*Fraxinus Americana*)

- *Size:* 20-30 meters tall, with exceptionally tall trees growing to 50 meters.
- *Leaves:* Leaves pinnately compound, 8-15 inches long. Leaflets 2.5-5 inches long, 5-9 per leaf, serrately round-toothed, ovate or oblong, dark green glabrous above, paler beneath.
- *Stems:* When the leaves drop in fall, they leave behind a U-shaped scar.
- *Flowers:* .25 inches long, small, purple, appear in clusters, bloom in spring before the leaves.
- *Fruit:* 1-2 inches long, light brown to tan in color, shape of a canoe paddle.
- *Susceptibility to insects and fungal pests:* Leaf Anthracnose is a common problem for the leaves of the White Ash during wet springs. Trunk Canker occasionally infects the bark.
- *The Emerald Ash Borer:* The White Ash is highly susceptible and has been infected by the Emerald Ash Borer. The pest has infested ash trees in Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, and Illinois. It has no known enemies. They feed on the part of the tree just beneath the bark, which inhibits the trees' natural ability to move water and nutrients from soil.