

## bitternut hickory *Juglandaceae* *Carya cordiformis* (Wangenh.)

K. Koch  symbol: CACO15

**vTree**

**Leaf:** Alternate, pinnately compound, 7 to 10 inches long, with 7 to 11 leaflets, leaflets are lanceolate and serrate, rachis is slender and pubescent, dark green above, paler below.

**Flower:** Species is monoecious; males are yellow-green, drooping catkins with 3 hanging from one stalk, 3 to 4 inches long; females are short, 4-angled, on a terminal spike, appearing in spring.

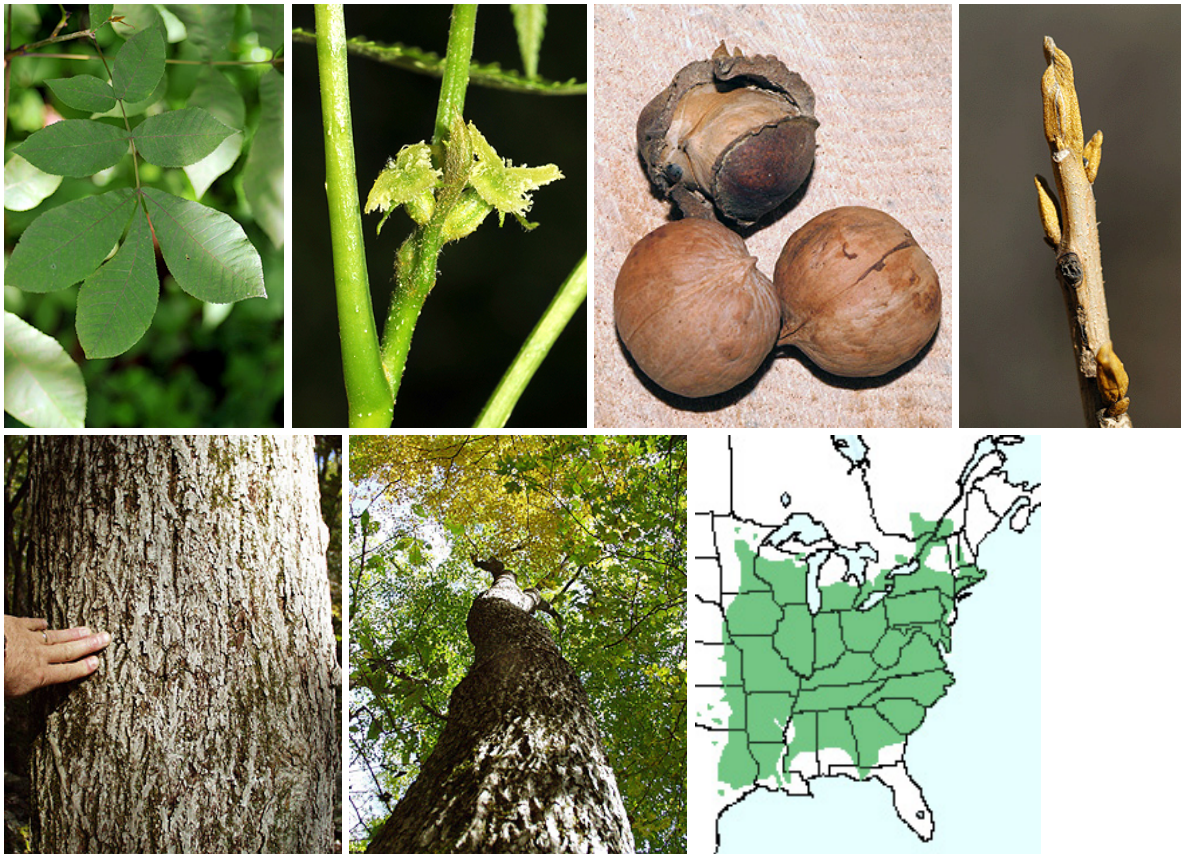
**Fruit:** Nearly globose but slightly flattened, 1 inch long, partially dehiscent from the middle to the sharp-pointed tip; husk is thin and 4-winged above the middle, often dusty-yellow looking; maturing in fall.

**Twig:** Moderately stout to slender (when compared to other hickories), leaf scars are 3-lobed; terminal bud is valvate, 4-angled and sulfur-yellow to brown in color.

**Bark:** Thin, tight and hard; initially smooth and silvery gray, much later gray with shallow furrows and interlacing ridges.

**Form:** A medium to large tree capable of reaching over 100 feet tall with an open, rounded top.

**Looks like:** [water hickory](#) - [pecan](#)



**Additional Range Information:**  
*Carya cordiformis* is native to North America. Range may be expanded by planting. [See states reporting bitternut hickory.](#)

**External Links:**  
[USDAFS Silvics of North America](#)  
[USDAFS Additional Silvics](#)  
[Landowner Factsheet](#)  
[USDA Plants Database](#)

© Copyright 2012, Virginia Tech  
 Department of Forest Resources  
 and Environmental Conservation,  
 all rights reserved.  
 Photos and Text by: John Seiler,  
 Edward Jensen, Alex Niemiera,  
 and John Peterson.