

13. Shagbark Hickory

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Memorial
Botanical Trail



Shagbark Hickory (*Carya ovata*) is a large tree with a tall trunk, narrow irregular crown, and distinctive rough, shaggy bark. Leaf edges are finely saw-toothed. The oval-shaped hickory nut is light brown with an edible seed. Shagbark hickory is commonly found in moist soils of valleys and upland slopes in mixed hardwood forests.

The name "hickory" comes from the American Indian word, *pawcihiccora*, which refers to the oily food removed from the beaten nuts when boiled in water. This sweet hickory milk was used in cooking corn cakes and hominy. Pioneers also made a yellow dye from the inner bark.