

Benefits of Urban Trees

Research has linked the presence of urban trees to...



REDUCING RATES of cardiac disease, strokes, and asthma due to improved air quality



PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY including habitat for migrating birds and pollinators



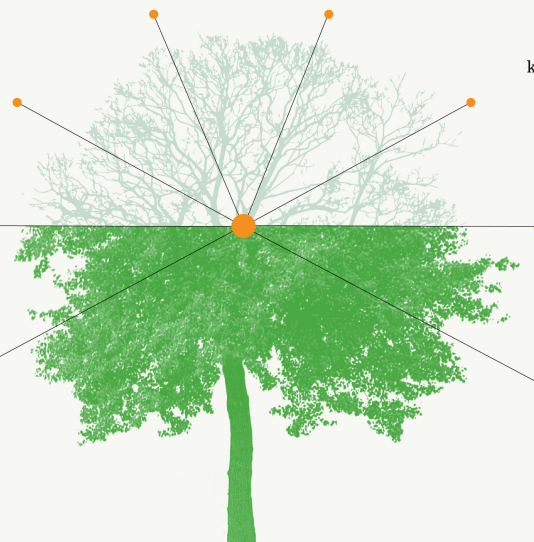
REDUCING OBESITY LEVELS by increasing physical activity including walking and cycling



MANAGING STORMWATER, keeping pollutants out of waterways, and reducing urban flooding



COOLING city streets by 2-4° F, reducing deaths from heat and cutting energy use



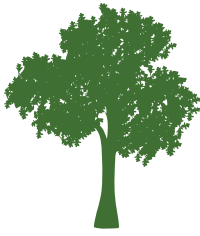
INCREASING neighborhood property values



FILTERING up to a third of fine particle pollutants within 300 yards of a tree



REDUCING STRESS by helping interrupt thought patterns that lead to anxiety and depression



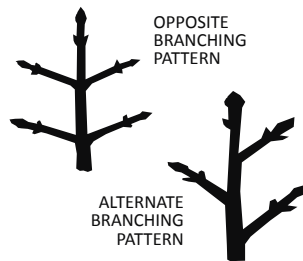
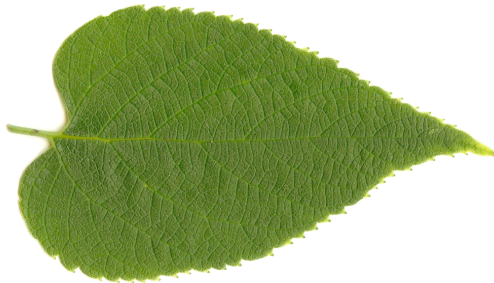
TREE OF THE MONTH

Common Hackberry • *Celtis occidentalis*

OTHER COMMON NAMES: BEAVERWOOD, FALSE ELM, NETTLETREE, SUGARBERRY



DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS Like many other Elm family trees, common hackberry's leaves are simple, have an asymmetrical base, and grow in an alternate pattern. Leaves are spear-shaped and sharply toothed. Hackberry bark stands out for its light gray-brown color and unusual warty texture. The warts are actually protrusions of cork, which are dispersed along a relatively smooth trunk in young trees and become larger and more characteristic in older trees.



ADAPTABLE NEIGHBOR

You can find hackberry in a variety of habitats, from their preferred river-side regions to open woodlands, rocky hillsides, limestone outcroppings, and sand barrens. Hackberry can tolerate a wide range of climates, from strong winds, pollution, heat, drought, and salt in developed areas.

ON THE STREET

Hackberry is good for both shade and ornamental uses. At maturity, hackberries can reach 40 – 60 feet and spread 40 – 60 feet wide. They resemble the popular American elm without the disease susceptibility that elms are known for.



FOR THE BIRDS & BUTTERFLIES

Hackberry fruits, called drupes, mature from red to purple over the summer and into the autumn. The drupes persist through the winter months and are important food for many birds including the cedar waxwing, robin, and quail. During the summer months, butterflies flock to hackberries with species including the morning cloak and tawny emperor.