

KEYS TO THE HICKORIES (*Carya*)

SUMMER KEY

1. Leaflets usually 9 or more. (2) *Apocarya* (Pecan hickories)
- 1a. Leaflets usually fewer than 9. (4) *Eucarya* (True hickories)

2. Leaflets 9-17; twigs dotted with orange-brown lenticels; nuts elongate,
not sharply - winged PECAN (*C. illinoensis*)
- 2a. Leaflets fewer; nuts roundish or oval, sharply winged (3)

3. Leaves usually less than 10 inches long; buds bright sulfur-yellow;
leaflets may have a few scales, twigs without scales BITTERNUT HICKORY (*C. cordiformis*)
- 3a. Leaves over 10 inches long; buds not bright yellow WATER HICKORY (*C. aquatica*)

4. Leaflets and leafstalks smooth to very smooth (5)
- 4a. Leaflets and leafstalks more or less downy, hairy, or scaly (6)

5. Leaflets 5, rarely 7, free of hair, without scaly bark PIGNUT HICKORY (*C. glabra*)
- 5a. Leaflets 7, rarely 5, tufts of axillary hairs, bark often more or less scaly RED HICKORY (*C. ovalis*)

6. Leaflets with peltate or glandular scales beneath (7)
- 6a. Leaflets hairy or downy beneath but not scaly (9)

7. Leaflets green beneath, w/ scattered resinous scales. . COAST PIGNUT HICKORY(*C. glabra* var.*megacarpa*)
- 7a. Leaflets pale or brownish beneath with peltate scales (8)

8. Leaflets narrowly lance-shaped, pale with minute, silvery, disklike
scales beneath; nut thin-shelled SAND HICKORY (*C. pallida*)
- 8a. Leaflets broadly lance-shaped or oblong, with minute, brownish scales and
often silky hairs beneath; nut very thick shelled; valvate bud, twigs
with scales NUTMEG HICKORY (*C. myristicaeformis*)*

9. Leaflets usually 5, rarely 7, often nearly smooth beneath, dark yellow-
green; bark shaggy SHAGBARK HICKORY (*C. ovata*)
- 9a. Leaflets usually 7, rarely 5 or 9 (10)

10. Leaves over 12 inches long, unequilateral bases, usually 7 leaflets;
twiglets thin; bark shaggy SHELLBARK HICKORY (*C. laciniosa*)
- 10a. Leaves shorter; bark not shaggy (11)

11. Leaves aromatic, pubescent beneath; twiglets stout; bark ridges interlaced
with shallow furrows MOCKERNUT HICKORY (*C. tomentosa*)
- 11a. Leaves not aromatic, thin and finely serrate, pubescent beneath, especially
along midrib; twiglets thin; smooth bark SWAMP HICKORY (*C. leiodermis*)

WINTER KEY (on next page)

*A member of the Pecan hickories which tends to have fewer than 9 leaflets.

KEYS TO THE HICKORIES (continued)

WINTER KEY

1. Bud scales paired, not overlapping, valvate (2)
- 1a. Bud scales not paired, overlapping (5)

2. Buds bright yellow BITTERNUT HICKORY (*C. cordiformis*)
- 2a. Buds not bright yellow (3)

3. Buds tawny or ashy PECAN (*C. illinoensis*)
- 3a. Buds dark brown (4)

4. Buds pointed at tip, nearly smooth WATER HICKORY (*C. aquatica*)
- 4a. Buds blunt at tip, woolly-hairy NUTMEG HICKORY (*C. myristicaeformis*)

5. Terminal bud over 1/2 inch long; twigs stout (6)
- 5a. Terminal bud less than 1/2 inch long; twigs rather slender (8)

6. Outer bud scales soon shed; bark not shaggy MOCKERNUT HICKORY (*C. tomentosa*)
- 6a. Outer bud scales present, the tips elongate; bark shaggy (7)

7. Terminal bud 3/4 inch or more long; twigs buffy or orange-brown . . . SHELLBARK HICKORY (*C. laciniosa*)
- 7a. Terminal bud shorter; twigs grayish to reddish-brown SHAGBARK HICKORY (*C. ovata*)

8. Outer bud scales smooth PIGNUT HICKORY (*C. glabra*)
- 8a. Outer bud scales downy and with minute silvery or brownish scales SAND HICKORY (*C. pallida*)

The Derivation of Scientific Names of Hickories-

Carya - From the Greek name used for nut

- C. aquatica - Aquatic, from its habitat WATER HICKORY
- C. cordiformis - Heart-shaped, perhaps referring to fruit BUTTERNUT HICKORY
- C. glabra - Smooth or hairless PIGNUT HICKORY
- C. glabra var. megacarpa - Large fruited COAST PIGNUT HICKORY
- C. illinoensis - of Illinois PECAN
- C. laciniosa - Full of flaps or folds, referring to bark plates SHELLBARK HICKORY
- C. leiodermis - Smooth-skinned, referring to "smoothist" bark SWAMP HICKORY
- C. myristicaeformis - with shape of Myristica, nutmeg NUTMEG HICKORY
- C. ovalis - Ovate or egg-shaped, referring to fruit RED HICKORY
- C. ovata - Ovate or egg-shaped, referring to fruit SHAGBARK HICKORY
- C. pallida - Pale, referring to leaflets SAND HICKORY
- C. tomentosa - Tomentose or densely hairy with short matted wool MOCKERNUT HICKORY