

Hickory Key
by: Sam Land

I. 9 or more leaflets

- A. 9-17 leaflets (Pecan)
- B. 9 leaflets; nuts sharply winged
 - 1. Lvs. < 10" long; sulfur-yellow buds (Bitternut hickory)
 - 2. Lvs. > 10" long; buds not yellow (Water hickory =bitter pecan)

II. 7 leaflets (usually)

- A. Leaflets and leafstalks smooth (Red hickory)
- B. Leaflets and leafstalks downy, hairy, or scaly
 - 1. Scales on underside of leaflet
 - a. Minute, silvery, disklike scales (Sand hickory)
 - b. Minute, brownish scales & silky hairs .. (Nutmeg hickory)
 - 2. Leaflets downy or hairy beneath, but not scaly
 - a. Bark shaggy (Shellbark hickory)
 - b. Bark not shaggy
 - (1) Lvs. aromatic; twigs stout;
bark ridges interlaced (Mockernut hickory)
 - (2) Lvs. not aromatic; twigs thin;
smooth bark (Swamp hickory)

III. 5 leaflets (usually)

- A. Leaflets free of hair
 - 1. Bark not shaggy; leaflets widely spaced on leaf-stalk; bundle scars in 3 groups on leaf scar (Pignut hickory)
 - 2. Bark shaggy; small, crowded leaflets; shiny black outer bud scales (Southern shagbark hickory)
- B. Leaflets hairy; bark shaggy; big leaflets (Common shagbark hickory)