

Fraxinus americana



white ash

Family	Oleaceae	
Origin	Native	
WIS Code	FACU	CoC 5



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DESCRIPTION

Large straight tree (to 40 m tall) with a narrow crown, dark gray, diamond pattern, ridged bark. Leaves are opposite, compound with usually seven leaflets (5 to 20 cm long). Leaflets are stalked (3 to 15 mm long petiolules), elliptic, with a pointed tip and finely toothed margins. Upper leaflet surfaces are dark green, smooth, and the lower surfaces are pale green with some hairs along veins.



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FLOWERS AND FRUITS

April to May; August to September. Flowers (male and female on separate trees) emerge before leaves in the spring. Fruits are spatula-shaped, narrow-winged seeds (samaras) 6 to 11 mm long, held in drooping clusters.



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HABITAT

Calcareous soils of moist to dry woodlands, seepage swamps, fens, well-drained floodplain forests and old fields.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Leaf scars (where leaves have detached from twigs) are strongly crescent shaped in *F. americana*, a wider crescent to semi-circle shape in *F. pennsylvanica*, green ash, and rounded in *F. nigra*, black ash. Samaras also differ: *F. americana* – very narrow with wing above the seed to the tip (6 to 11 mm); *F. pennsylvanica* – wings begin on either side of seed before extending to the tip (4 to 7 mm); *F. nigra* – broader with short wings running most of the seed length before extending to the tip (5 to 10 mm).



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F. americana, *F. nigra*, *F. pennsylvanica*

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