



American Beech

(Fagus grandifolia Ehrh.)

Location: The American Beech is found throughout North Carolina, but it grows best in moist mountain coves. It can be found scattered with oaks and hickories on rich, well-drained bottoms. In the mountains, it sometimes grows in dense beech stands or in association with sugar maple, yellow birch and other hardwoods.

Shape: The crown is broad and rounded and the trunk is short.

Bark: Light gray with very smooth bark.

Leaves: 2 to 6 inches long and are oblong and pointed. They have small “teeth” that curve inward. The leaves turn yellow in the fall and usually stay on the tree through the winter.

Nuts: The nuts from this tree are an excellent food for many wild birds and animals. The nuts are edible and are triangular in shape and about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long. The nuts fall off the tree after the first frost, September to November.

Wood Type: Hardwood

Mature Height: 60 to 80 feet high

Mature Diameter: 2 to 3 feet

Uses: Furniture, flooring, carpenters’ tools, novelty wares and food containers.

Reference: Holmes, J. S., & Holmes, J. S. (2015). *Common forest trees of North Carolina: A pocket manual*. Raleigh, NC: North Carolina Forest Service.