



Black Walnut

(*Juglans nigra L.*)

Location: The black walnut is found throughout the state of North Carolina and only grows well on rich bottomlands, in moist, fertile coves and on lower slopes. Its survival, growth and quality on less fertile sites is not good.

Bark: The bark is thick, dark brown to black and is divided by deep fissures into rounded ridges.

Leaves: Alternate, pinnately compound, 12 to 24 inches long, with 15 to 23 sharply oval finely toothed, long-pointed leaflets 3 to 3 ½ inches long. Leaves turn a bright, clear yellow in the fall.

Fruit: The fruit is attached singly or in pairs and is globular in shape with a pointed apex. The fruit is 1 ½ to 2 inches in diameter and has a thick, yellow-green fibrous husk. The hard, woody nut inside is dark brown, oval to oblong, 1 to 1 ½ inches in diameter and is deeply divided on the outer surface into irregular ridges. The meat of the nut is sweet and edible and is a favorite food for squirrels.

Wood Type: Hardwood. The heartwood is of superior quality and value. It is heavy, hard and strong, has a rich chocolate-brown color, and it warps very little when drying. Once dry, it is dimensionally stable. Its wood is highly prized and the most valuable of hardwoods.

Mature Height: 50 to 90 feet high

Mature Diameter: 2 to 3 feet

Uses: Furniture, cabinetwork and gun stocks.

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