

Trees at the Joseph McDowell Historical Catawba Greenway



American Beech

The nuts from this tree are an excellent food for many wild birds and animals.

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.



American Hop Hornbeam

This tree has very strong, hard and durable wood and is known as "ironwood" or "leverwood."

Wood Type: Hardwood

Mature Height: 20 to 30 feet high

Mature Diameter: 7 to 10 inches

Uses: Tool handles, mallets, and other small articles. Several young hop hornbeams planted in a row can be pruned to develop an attractive hedge.



American Sycamore –

This tree is also called "buttonwood" and is considered one of the largest hardwood trees in North America.

Wood Type: Hardwood

Mature Height: 80 to 110 feet

Mature Diameter: 3 to 8 feet

Uses: Chopping blocks, tobacco boxes, furniture, interior finish and products such as chip board and flake board.



Black Cherry

This tree is often called wild cherry and the cherries from this tree are food for wild animals and birds.

Wood Type: Hardwood

Mature Height: 60 to 100 feet high

Mature Diameter: 1 to 5 feet

Uses: Furniture, interior finish, tools and tool handles. Cherry lumber is one of the most valuable in the eastern United States.

****Fun Fact:** A deciduous tree loses its leaves annually.



Black Locust

Often called "yellow locust," this tree is native only to the mountains of North Carolina although it is widely planted across the state.

Wood Type: Hardwood

Mature Height: 30 to 70 feet tall

Mature Diameter: 1 to 2 feet

Uses: Fence posts, poles, split rails, insulator pins, decking and in other places where hard, strong, decay-resistant wood is needed.



Black Walnut

This tree is the most valuable of all the hardwoods. The meat of the nut is sweet and edible and is a favorite food for squirrels.

Wood Type: Hardwood

Mature Height: 50 to 90 feet high

Mature Diameter: 2 to 3 feet

Uses: Furniture, cabinetwork and gun stocks.

****Fun Fact:** All trees reproduce by producing seeds, but the seed structure varies.

For more tree information, please visit www.ncforestservice.gov



Flowering Dogwood

The dogwood has the distinction of being North Carolina's state flower.

Wood Type: Hardwood

Mature Height: 10 to 20 feet tall

Mature Diameter: 4 to 6 inches

Uses: Textile shuttles and spools and for handles and mallets.



Green Ash – This tree is common along rivers and low grounds in the North Carolina Piedmont and lower mountains.

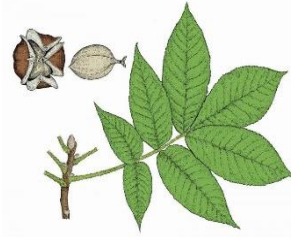
Wood Type: Hardwood

Mature Height: 50 to 60 feet tall

Mature Diameter: 18 to 24 inches

Uses: Tool handles and baseball and softball bats.

****Fun Fact:** In general, **hardwood** comes from a deciduous tree which loses its leaves annually and **softwood** comes from a conifer, which usually remains evergreen.



Mockernut Hickory

This and other hickories are very desirable as both forest and shade trees. The meat of the nut is sweet and is enclosed in a very thick shell.

Wood Type: Hardwood

Mature Height: 50 to 70 feet high

Mature Diameter: 1 to 2 feet

Uses: Tool handles and in sporting goods.



River Birch

– The river birch is the only native birch found at low elevations in the South.

Wood Type: Hardwood

Mature Height: 70 to 80 feet high

Mature Diameter: 1 to 3 feet

Uses: Furniture and other products, where its close-grained properties make it valuable.

****Fun Fact:** Hardwoods tend to be slower growing and are therefore usually more dense.



Red Maple

The red maple is also known as “swamp maple” or “soft maple” and is found throughout North Carolina.

Wood Type: Hardwood

Mature Height: 40 to 50 feet high

Mature Diameter: 1 ½ to 2 ½ feet

Uses: Furniture manufacturing, turnery (turning on a lathe) and woodenware and as pulpwood.



Yellow Poplar

– Also known as the tulip tree, this tree grows best in deep moist soils along streams and in lower mountain coves.

Wood Type: Hardwood (but soft enough to work with easily)

Mature Height: 90 to 110 feet high

Mature Diameter: 2 to 5 feet

Uses: Cut into lumber for interior and exterior trim, veneers, flake and chip boards, turnery (turning on a lathe) and other high-grade uses.

Tree Identification Signs Courtesy of the City of Marion, McDowell Technical Community College, and the NC Forest Service.