






Carya tomentosa

Mockernut Hickory

Tried and True
Native Plant Selections
for the Mid-Atlantic

Noted for beautiful golden fall color, this long-lived keystone plant* hosts numerous moth species and feeds and shelters many types of animals. The species epithet “tomentosa” refers to the hair-covered undersurfaces of its leaflets, a characteristic that makes the tree easily identifiable.



Tree	Spring Tree, Catkins, Fruit, Leaves, Aged Bark	
Height: 60–80 feet		
Spread: 40–60 feet		
Bloom Color: Greenish-yellow (male); red (female)		
Characteristics		
Slow-growing, deciduous tree with straight trunk and rounded crown; monoecious		
Alternate , pinnately compound , ≤ 20” long leaves with 5–9 toothed, ovate- lanceolate , green leaflets , paler tomentose below; attractive yellow fall foliage		
Drooping yellow-green catkins up to 6” long (male); short red spikes (female) April to May		
Nuts with husks that split into 4 valves in October		
Smooth gray bark ages to rounded, interlacing ridges & shallow furrows; young stems pubescent		
Attributes		
Tolerates drought once established and Black Walnut; susceptible to pests (hickory bark beetle, pecan weevil, borers, twig girdler) but no serious diseases; deer browse leaves and twigs		
Nuts** edible; wood for lumber, firewood, charcoal		
Nuts attract many animals; habitat for cavity-nesting birds; larval host for ~240 Lepidopteran species		
Growing and Maintenance Tips	Excellent Replacement for	
Soil Requirements : Sand , clay loam , well-drained	Acer platanoides - Norway Maple	
Light Requirements : Sun, Partial Shade	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i> - Ginkgo	
Water Requirements : Moist	<i>Platanus acerifolia</i> - London Plane Tree	
Transplant when small due to deep taproot		
Site where fallen nuts/leaf litter won't be a problem	*In the Mid-Atlantic Region, it is native in DC; in MD, mostly in Anne Arundel and Howard counties; and in PA except in northern and a few other scattered counties. In VA, it is common throughout. **Nuts (hard to crack) produced on trees 25–200 years old.	
Use in large yard or naturalized areas for shade		
Hardiness : USDA Zones 4a–9b		

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