

Carya tomentosa

Mockernut Hickory

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.

Tried and True
Native Plant Selections
for the Mid-Atlantic



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

Images by Elaine Mills, Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, VA



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