



Pecan - *Caryas illinoensis*

Description: Pecans are large, deciduous trees with attractive, pinnate leaves that are yellow, orange, or gold colored in fall. Native pecans produce nuts most suited for wildlife but vary by individual. Commercial varieties of pecans result from plant breeding and are grafted on rootstock for consistently large and flavorful nuts.



Leaf: Alternate, pinnately compound with 9 to 15 finely serrate and often curved leaflets, 12 to 18 inches long.

Flower: Monocious; male flowers in hanging, yellow-green catkins, often in pairs of three (4 to 5 inches long); females are small and yellowish green, 4-angled.

Fruit: Large, oblong, brown, splotted with black, thin shelled nuts, 1 1/2 to 2 inches long, husks are thin, usually occur in clusters on trees, mature in fall. The nut is housed in a thick, green, fleshy covering, similar to that of a walnut.

Twig: Moderately stout, light brown, fuzzy (particularly when young); leaf scars large and three lobed; buds are yellowish-brown to brown, hairy, with terminal buds 1/4 to 1/2 inch long.

Bark: Smooth when young, becoming narrowly fissured into thin broken strips, often scaly.

Form: A large tree (can reach heights well over 100 feet) with spreading crown when in the open.

Site requirements:

Pecans like an ordinary garden soil and tolerate a variety of conditions. They are fairly slow growers, putting much into their roots when young. There are species suited to various climatic zones.

Zone 5-8