

HACKBERRY

CELTIS OCCIDENTALIS

This tough, early successional tree can tolerate a wide range of soils (wet, dry, poor) and urban pollution. Birds eat the fleshy fruits and readily disperse the seeds. Leaves are uneven at the base and are coarsely toothed on the upper half toward the leaf tip.



TYPE:

Deciduous



SIZE:

60 feet high 60 feet wide



SUN:

Full sun to part shade



FLOWERS:

Small, inconspicuous



USDA ZONES:

3-9



ID TIPS:

The gray bark on mature trees develop corky ridges and warty texture.



WILDLIFE VALUE:

Hackberry is larval host to hackberry emperor, tawny emperor, American snout and mourning cloak butterflies. The berrylike drupe is eaten by a wide variety of birds (cedar waxwing, mockingbird and robin).



INTERESTING FACT:

The hackberry relies on animals to eat the fruits and disperse its seeds in order to reproduce.





