

SASSAFRAS

SASSAFRAS ALBIDUM

Sassafras is a native tree with pretty spring flowers and large, interesting leaves that turn beautiful colors in the fall. The leaves are three shapes – ovate, shaped like a mitten or cut into three wide lobes. Sassafras can be found in forests, old fields and disturbed areas in Charlotte.



TYPE:

Deciduous



SIZE:

60 feet high 40 feet wide



SUN:

Full to partial



FLOWERS:

Occur in spring before tree has leafed out



USDA ZONES:

4-9



ID TIPS:

The three leaf shapes as well as the distinctive fragrance from all parts of the plant



WILDLIFE VALUE:

Sassafras is a larval host for several swallowtail butterfly species and the female tree can produce berries that feed birds.



INTERESTING FACT:

It was the main ingredient in traditional root beer.





