

FactSheet



Hackberry or Common Hackberry

Celtis occidentalis

General

Family:	Ulmaceae - Elm
Cultivar Availability:	Yes
Hardiness Zone:	2 - 9
Tree Type:	Broadleaf
Utah Native:	No

Growth

Growth Rate:	High
Mature Height:	High
Longevity:	High
OK Under Powerlines:	No
Crown Shape:	Vase

Ornamental

Flowers:	No
Fruit:	No
Foliage:	No
Fall Color:	No
Bark:	Yes

Tolerances

Shade:	Medium
Salt:	Medium
Drought:	High
Poor Drainage:	Medium
Alkalinity:	High

Leaves: Alternate; simple; ovate to ovate-lanceolate; 2" to 4" long; deciduous; serrate margin; long acuminate apex; base uneven; glabrous or slightly rough above; glabrous beneath; light, dull green; "nipple galls" or green bumps often occur on underside of leaves; petiole up to 1/2" long.

Twigs/buds: Twigs slender; zigzag; red-brown; pith chambered. No terminal bud; lateral buds small, pointed, pressed against the twig.

Flowers/fruit: Polygamo-monoecious. Fruit a drupe; 1/4" in diameter; round; dark-purple; one per stem; on stalks 1/2" to 3/4" long; flesh edible; ripen in September or October.

Bark: Gray-brown; smooth when young; develops characteristic corky warts or ridges when older; eventually becomes scaly.

Wood: Moderately important; sapwood pale yellow to green-yellow; heartwood yellow to light brown; growth rings distinct; ring-porous; rays visible to the naked eye; often sold as elm.

General: Native from the Great Plains

Transplanting: High

east through most of the eastern U.S., excluding the extreme southeast; not Utah. Prefers moist, rich soils. Intermediate shade tolerance and will survive partial shade from other trees.

Landscape Use: This is one of the best non-native trees for planting throughout Utah. It has a medium-fast growth rate, a very nice crown form, unusual bark, and is adapted to moderate drought, heat, wind, and high soil pH. Fruit is not a problem since it dries or is eaten by birds before dropping and trees do not bear heavily. Often used in windbreaks but also good as a large landscape tree for specimen use, in parks, or along streets. Has proven itself in Utah and should be planted much more; becoming easier to get. Zones 2-9.

Cultivars: 'Chicagoland', 'Delta', 'Prairie Pride', 'Windy City'.



Crown - (c) Michael Kuhns



Leaves - (c) Michael Kuhns



Crown, Fall Color - (c) Rose Long



Crown, Winter, UofU - (c) Michael Kuhns



Native Crown in Winter - (c) Michael Kuhns



Twig, Ogden Botanical Gardens - (c) Ryan Allred



Young Bark - (c) Michael Kuhns



Bark - (c) Michael Kuhns

Utah State University is committed to providing an environment free from harassment and other forms of illegal discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age (40 and older), disability, and veteran's status. USU's policy also prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in employment and academic related practices and decisions. Utah State University employees and students cannot, because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or veteran's status, refuse to hire; discharge; promote; demote; terminate; discriminate in compensation; or discriminate regarding terms, privileges, or conditions of employment, against any person otherwise qualified. Employees and students also cannot discriminate in the classroom, residence halls, or in on/off campus, USU-sponsored events and activities. This publication is issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Noelle Cockett, Vice President for Extension and Agriculture, Utah State University (extension.usu.edu).

This fact sheet was produced by the Tree Browser, an application provided by Utah State University Forestry Extension (extension.usu.edu/forestry).