

AgBark



Did you know?

White Ash trees contribute to America's favorite pastime - baseball!

Overview

A series of tree insights

- White Ash trees active growth periods are in the spring and summer and bloom mid spring.
- White Ash trees grow from northern Florida to eastern Minnesota down to south eastern Texas.
- The dark gray bark of a White Ash tree is its most distinctive features.

Tree Details

White Ash trees usually reach 75-120 feet tall at full maturity.

White Ash foliage turns into shades of purple, maroon, burgundy and golden yellow in the fall.

White Ash leaves are 8-15 inches long with 5-9 leaflets.

White Ash Tree

Kingdom: Plantae

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Scrophulariales

Family: Oleaceae

Genus: Fraxinus

White Ash Trees in Agriculture

- Wood from White Ash trees is highly valued due to its strength, hardness, heavy weight and shock resistance.
- White Ash wood is most famously used in baseball bats and commonly used in furniture, doors, railroad ties, canoe paddles, boats and fuel.
- White Ash wood is the most valuable timber tree of the various ash trees.

History

- One of the earliest reported uses of White Ash was as a snake bite preventive. When hunters would place Ash leaves in their pockets or boots, it "proved" to be offensive to rattlesnakes.
- Native Americans used the wood, leaves, seeds and the bark for medicinal purposes.
- Ash forests in northern Pennsylvania & New York were managed for baseball bat production throughout the 20th century.

Sources:

1. <https://plants.sc.egov.usda.gov/plant-profile/FRAM2>
2. https://plants.sc.egov.usda.gov/DocumentLibrary/plantguide/pdf/pg_fram2.pdf
3. <https://plantnative.org/native-plants/white-ash-fraxinus-americana.htm>

