

# Common Trees and Shrubs of the North Carolina Piedmont

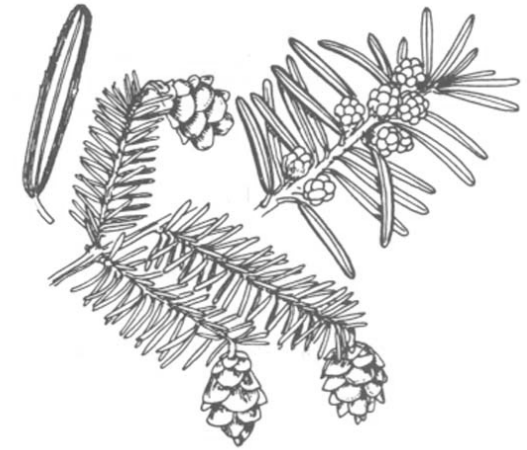
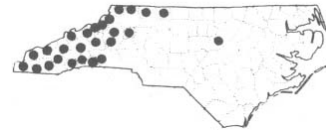


Modifications provided by the Stevens Nature Center, Town of Cary, N.C.

# Eastern Hemlock

(*Tsuga canadensis*)

Found along bluffs at  
Hemlock Bluffs Nature  
Preserve, Cary, N.C. in  
the Piedmont



Tree found in mountains or western Piedmont along steams and cool slopes; tree has a broad-based pyramid shape; short needles are round-tipped and  $\frac{1}{2}$  - $\frac{2}{3}$  in. long; Evergreen

## Post Oak (*Quercus stellata*)



Tree of sandy, poor soils and rocky ridges; leaves resemble a cross when lower lobes are folded back and often turn brown in winter

## Black Oak (*Quercus velutina*)



Large tree of well-drained soils; leaves are variable in form, 6-10 in. long

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## Blackjack Oak

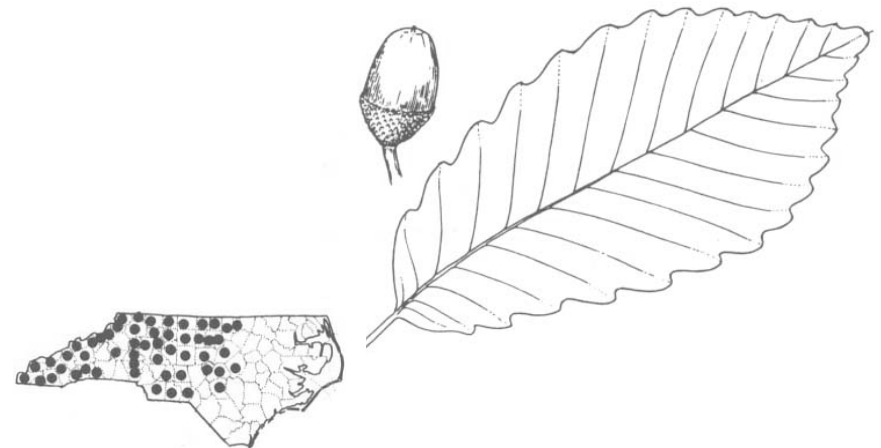
(*Quercus marilandica*)



Indicator of poor soils often on dry gravel or sandy uplands; leaves 4-8 in. long with three large indistinct lobes at the apex

## Chestnut Oak

(*Quercus montana*)



Tree of sandy, rocky, dry uplands; leaves turn yellow to brown in fall, large acorns

## Scarlet Oak

(*Quercus coccinea*)



Tree of poor or sandy soils, upland sites; leaves can turn brilliant red in fall in some years

## Southern Red Oak

(*Quercus falcata*)

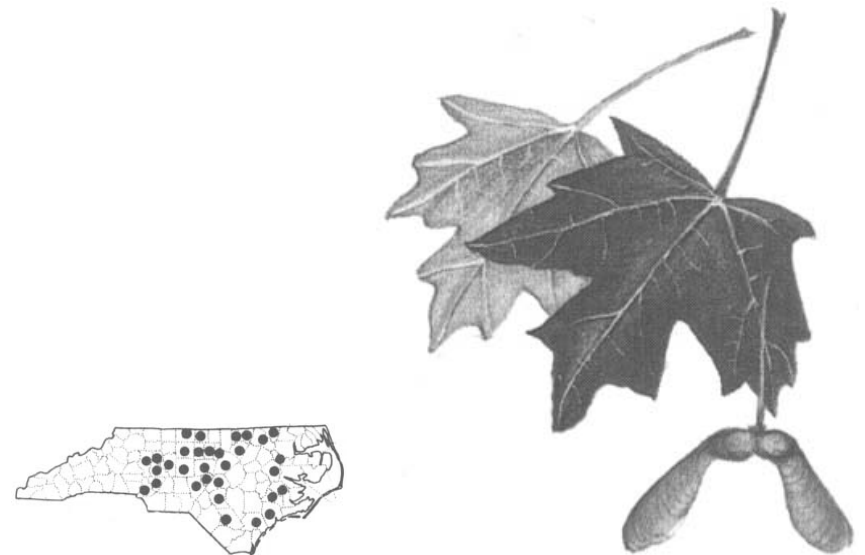


Tree of dry sites in uplands and mixed forests; leaves turn brown in fall; sometimes referred to as Spanish Oak

# Trees and Shrubs of Floodplains and Shady Situations

## Southern Sugar Maple

(*Acer floridanum*)



Tree of low woods or well-drained, neutral soils; leaves turn red, orange, or yellow in fall

## Boxelder (*Acer negundo*)



Tree of low woods and stream banks; leaves are pinnately compound and have 3-7 leaflets per leaf

## Virginia Pine (*Pinus virginiana*)



Tree of old fields and heavily eroded and dry soils; needles 1½ -3 in. long found in bunches of two, cones ½-2¾ in. long and reddish brown; dead limbs persist along trunk; evergreen

## Painted Buckeye (*Aesculus sylvatica*)



Shrub of rich soils in shady sites; leaves turn yellow or orange very early, often in late summer; Hummingbirds attracted to flowers

## White Oak (*Quercus alba*)



Tree of uplands and well-drained lowlands; bark is flaky and white; lobed leaves turn red or brown in fall

## Sourwood

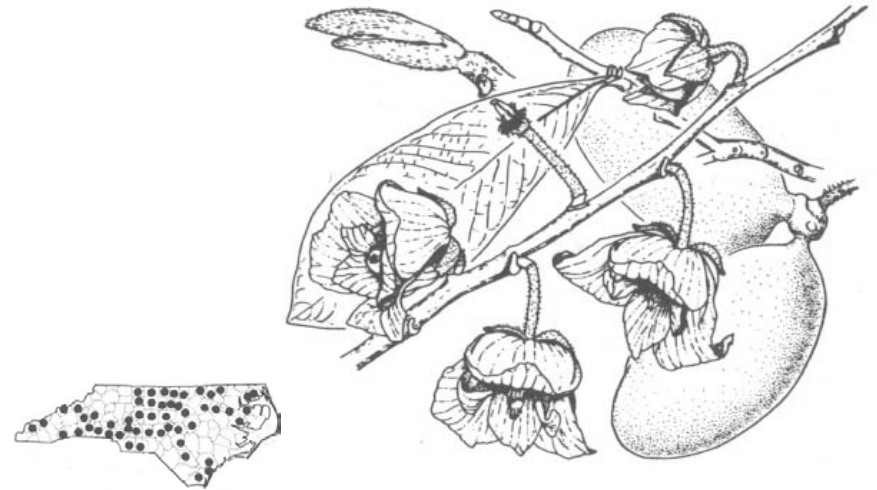
(*Oxydendrum arboreum*)



Tree of well-drained floodplains and uplands; flowers produce a tasty honey; trunk of tree is oval and often crooked; leaves turn reddish early in fall or late summer

## Pawpaw

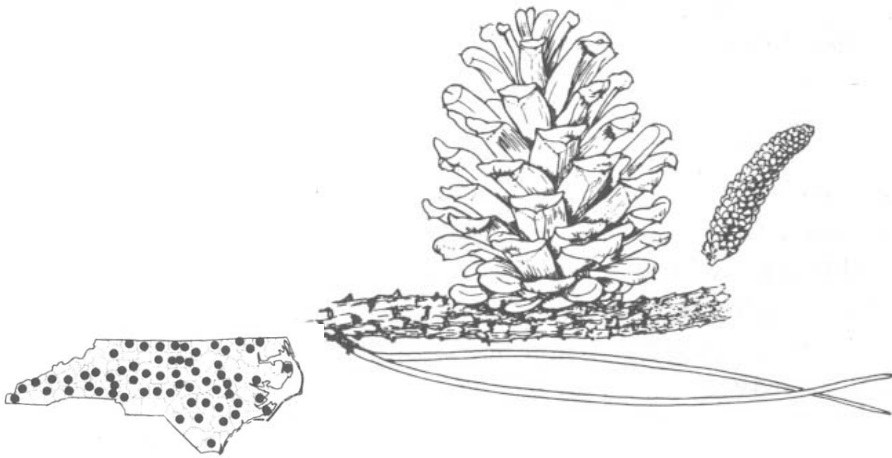
(*Asimina triloba*)



Small tree of lowlands; leaves turn yellow in the fall; wildlife attracted to fruits

## Short-leaf Pine

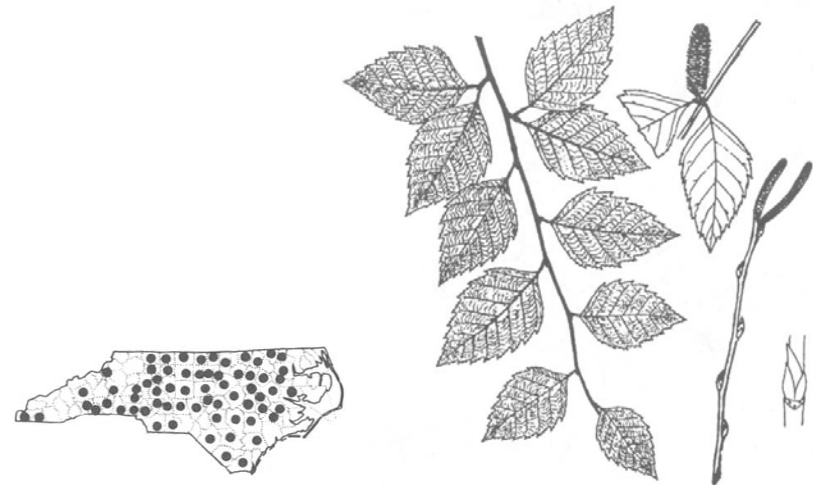
(*Pinus echinata*)



Common tree of uplands; needles 3-5 in. long in bunches of two; Evergreen

## River Birch

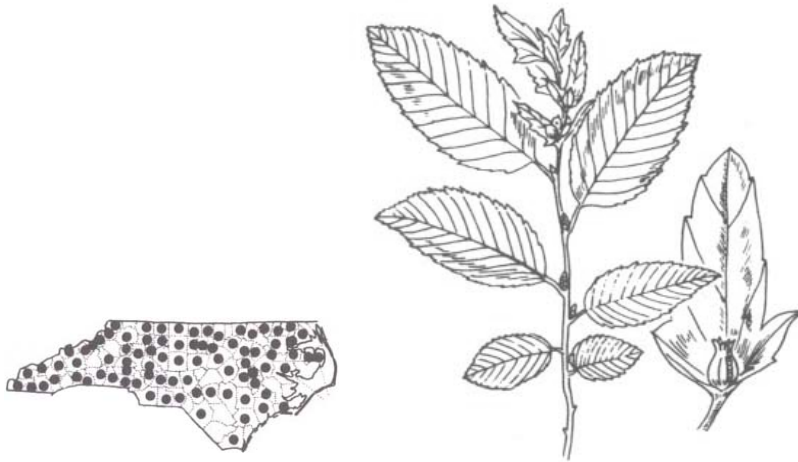
(*Betula nigra*)



Tree of moist soils on stream banks, lakes, swamps, and flood plains; leaves turn dull yellow in fall

## Ironwood

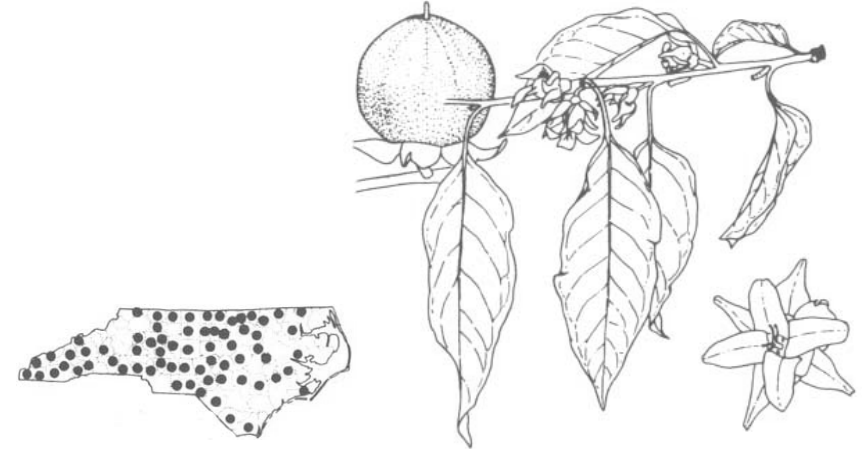
(*Carpinus caroliniana*)



Tree of moist soils of lowlands, often along streams; leaves turn dull yellow in fall; has smooth bark, trunk resembles muscle striations

## Persimmon

(*Diospyros virginiana*)



Small tree found statewide; leaves are 4-6 in. long; fruits are eaten by a variety of wildlife including foxes, opossum, raccoon, birds, and deer

## Bitternut Hickory

(*Carya cordiformis*)



Tree of moist, rich soils; leaves are 6-10 in. long with seven to nine narrow oval leaflets, leaves turn yellow in fall

## Eastern Red Cedar

(*Juniperus virginiana*)

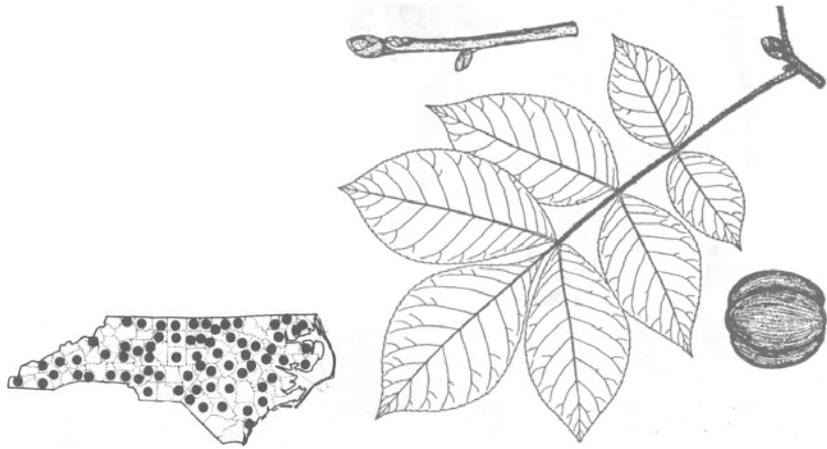


Common small tree; leaves are 1/16 in. long; fleshy fruit eaten by birds in winter; evergreen



# Mockernut Hickory

(*Carya alba*)



Tree mainly of uplands, sometimes in lowlands; each leaf usually has seven leaflets, turn yellow in fall; nuts are food for deer and squirrels

# Shagbark Hickory

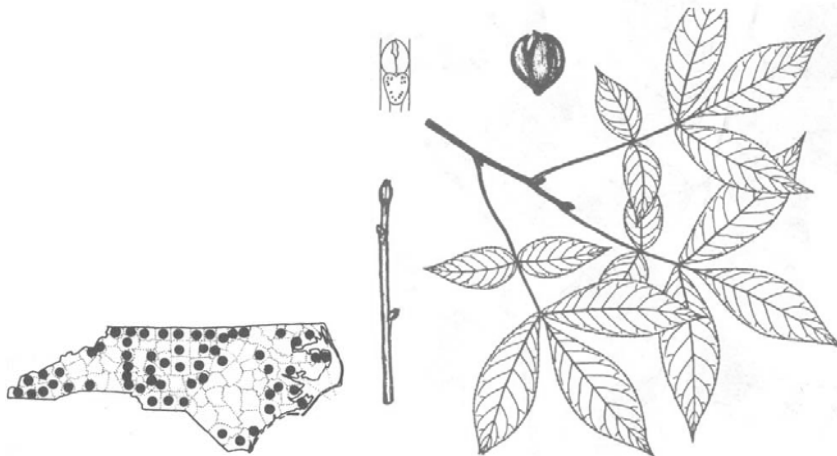
(*Carya ovata*)



Tree of rich soils; often along streams and moist hillsides; leaves are 8-14 in. long with five tapered oval leaflets, leaves turn yellow in fall

# Pignut Hickory

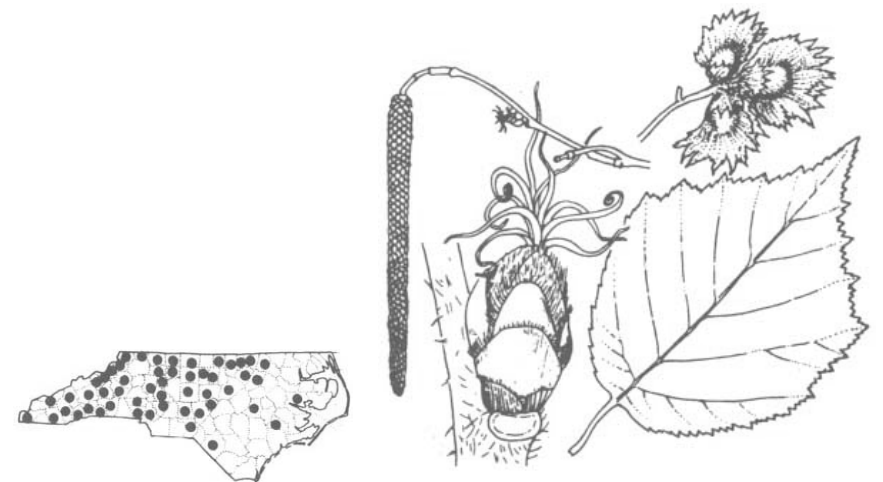
(*Carya glabra*)



Tree of uplands and well-drained lowlands; each leaf has five leaflets, turn yellow in fall; nuts provide great wildlife food

# Hazelnut

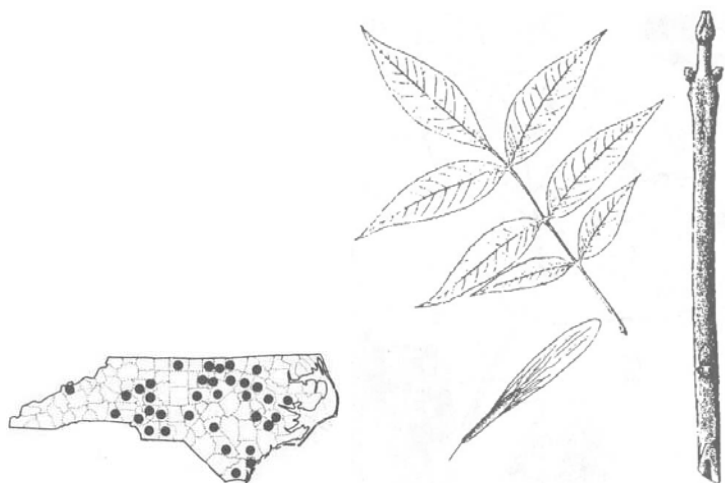
(*Corylus americana*)



Tree of well drained lowlands; leaves are heart-shaped, turn dull yellow in fall; nuts are food for small mammals and deer

## Green or Red Ash

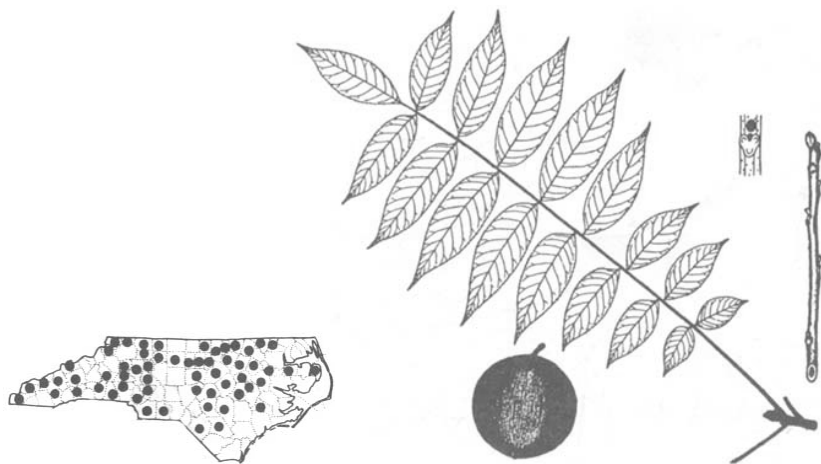
(*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*)



Tree of lowlands; compound leaves are oppositely attached on twigs, turn yellow in fall

## Black Walnut

(*Juglans nigra*)

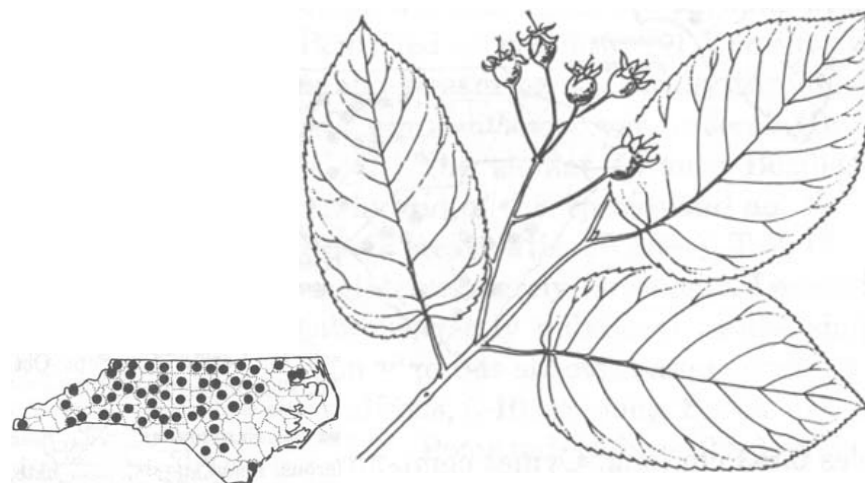


Tree of rich lowlands, and moist fertile coves on lower slopes; leaves are 12-24 in. long, and pinnately compound with 15-23 finely toothed oval leaflets, turn yellow in fall

# Trees of Well-Drained Situations, Usually Uplands

## Serviceberry

(*Amelanchier arborea*)



Small tree or shrub of shady sites; leaves are 2-4in. long, ovate, and toothed, turn yellow or orange in fall

## Maple Leaf Viburnum

(*Viburnum acerifolium*)



Shrub of uplands or lowlands; leaves often turn bright pink in fall; dark fruit in late fall and winter are food for birds and mammals

## Spicebush

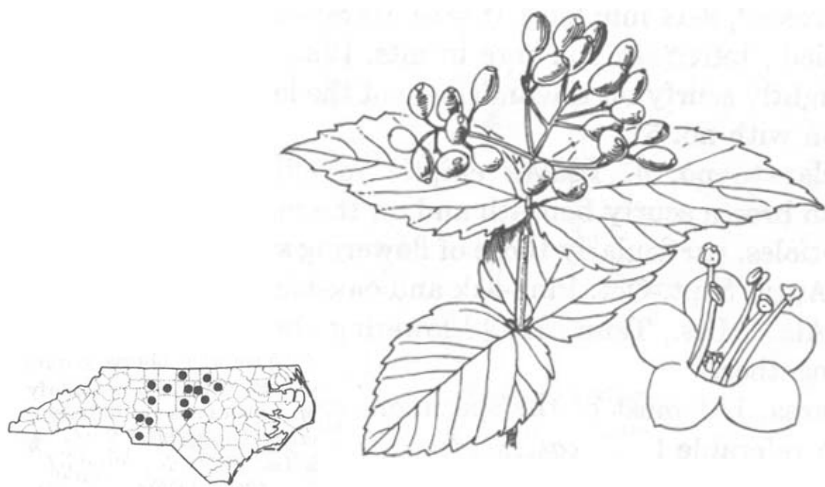
(*Lindera benzoin*)



Shrub of floodplains, lowlands, or circumneutral soils; fruits are excellent fall bird food; leaves turn yellow in fall

## Downy Arrowwood

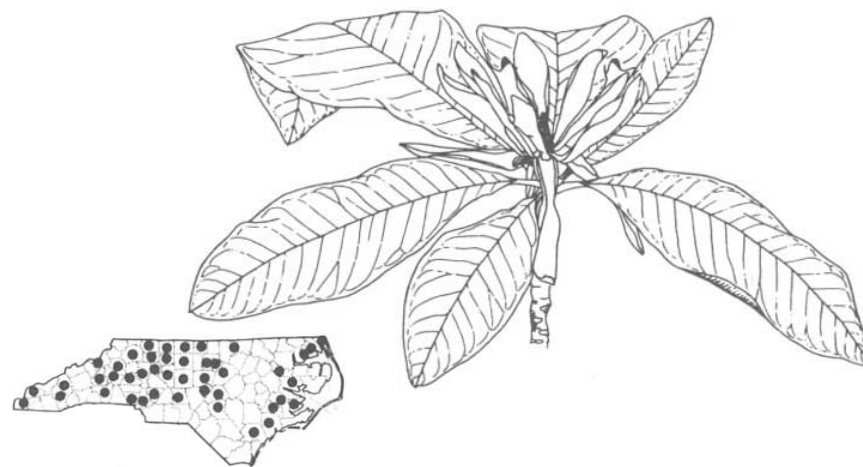
(*Viburnum rafinesquianum*)



Shrub of uplands or lowlands; fruits provide food for birds in winter; leaves often turn bronze in fall

## Umbrella Magnolia

(*Magnolia tripetala*)



Small tree of moist and fertile soils in hardwood forests; leaves are 10-16 in. long, turn yellowish in fall

## American Sycamore

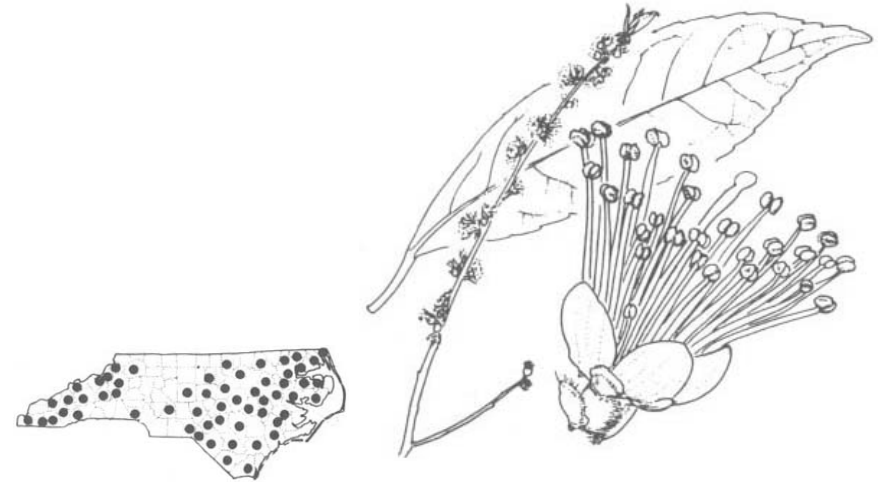
(*Platanus occidentalis*)



Large tree found mostly along streams or in lowlands; leaves are 4-7 in. long with three to four lobes divided by broad, shallow indentions

## Sweetleaf

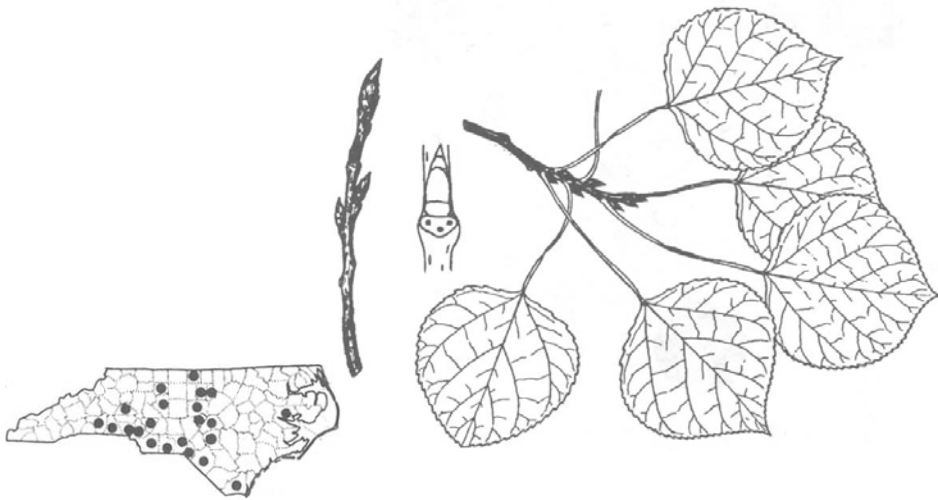
(*Symplocos tinctoria*)



Shrub or small tree of uplands and lowlands, often in shady situations; purple leaf color in late fall persists into winter

## Eastern Cottonwood

(*Populus deltoides*)



Large tree along stream banks and in lowlands; leaves are 3-6 in. long, 4-5 in. wide, toothed

## Winged Elm

(*Ulmus alata*)



Takes name from the corky "wings" sometimes present on twigs; found on dry uplands and on moist soils; leaves are 1½-3½ in. long, oblong-oval, pointed, and toothed

## Sassafras

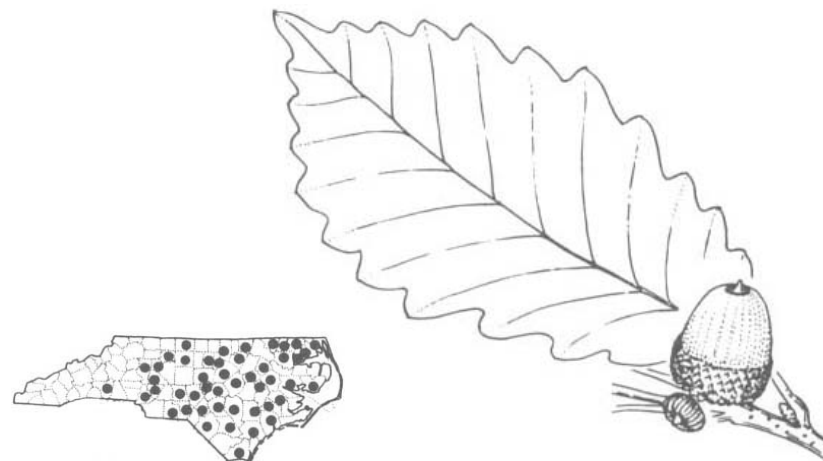
(*Sassafras albidum*)



Small tree or shrub usually in open areas or along edges; leaves are 4-6 in. long, may be two or three-lobed or not lobed at all, turn yellow-orange in fall

## Swamp Chestnut Oak

(*Quercus michauxii*)



Large tree of floodplains and lowlands; leaves similar to Chestnut Oak (*Q. montana*) which is a tree of uplands

## Big Leaf Snowbell

(*Styrax grandifolia*)



Small tree or shrub of moist soils, valleys, and uplands; flowers are white and bell-shaped in spring, leaves turn yellow in fall; bark is dark gray and smooth

## Black Willow

(*Salix nigra*)



Medium-sized tree along streams or other wet areas where there is a continuous supply of water; leaves are 3-6 in. long and narrow, toothed

## Bladdernut

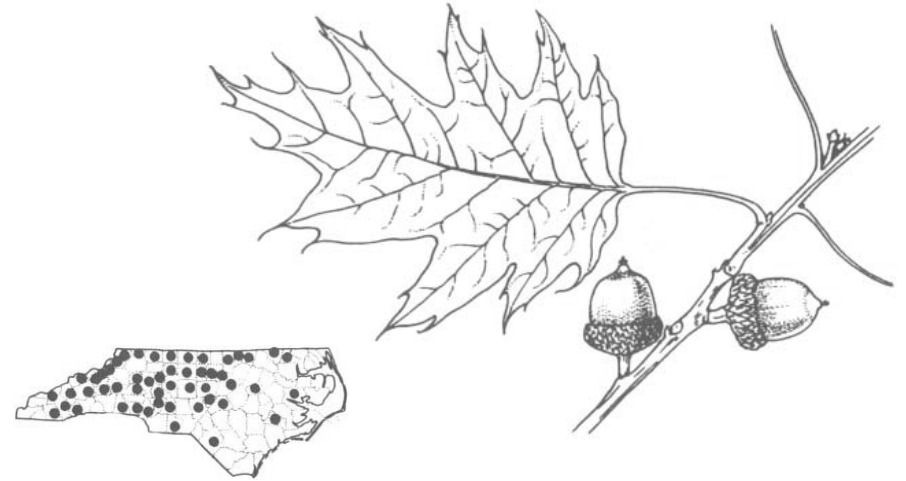
(*Staphylea trifolia*)



Shrub or small tree of lowlands and floodplains; has trifoliate leaves, turn yellow in the fall; bladder-like fruits

## Red Oak

(*Quercus rubra*)



Tree of moist and loamy soils that are well drained; leaves turn dark red to brown in fall; bark displays vertical lines

## American Elm

(*Ulmus americana*)



Tree of lowlands and moist soils; leaves are 4-6 in. long, toothed; wood is hard and tough to split

## Wild Azalea

(*Rhododendron periclymenoides*)



Shrub of uplands and lowlands, often in shady situations; Hummingbirds attracted to pink flowers in spring

## Water Oak

(*Quercus nigra*)



Tree of moist soils mainly of lowlands or uplands; leaves turn yellow to brown in fall; a fairly short-lived oak

## Willow Oak

(*Quercus phellos*)

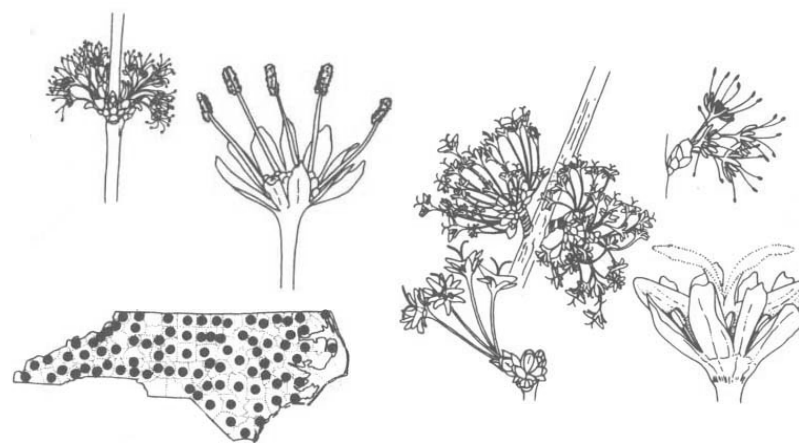


Tree of mainly lowlands or uplands; leaves turn yellow to brown in fall; very small acorns, serve as valuable food for several birds, small mammals, and deer

# Trees and Shrubs of Both Uplands and Lowlands

## Red Maple

(*Acer rubrum*)



Tree of moist soils of stream banks, valleys, swamps, and also uplands; leaves turn red to yellow in fall

## Redbud

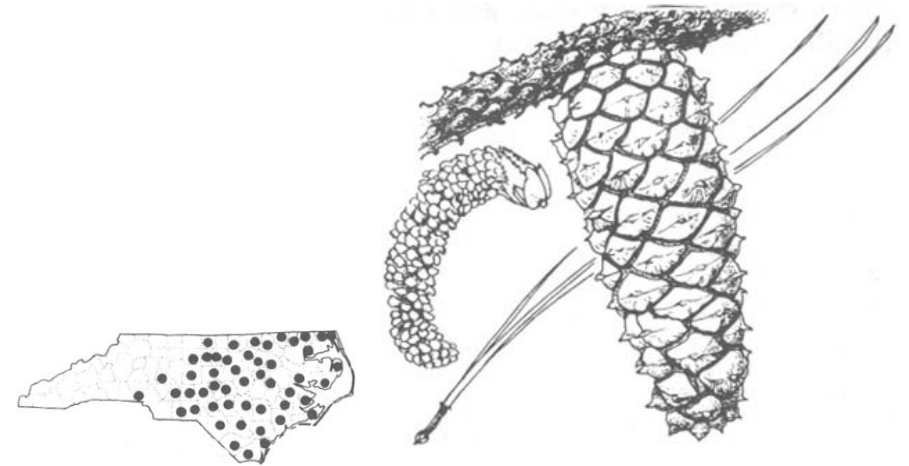
(*Cercis canadensis*)



Small tree of borders, hillsides and valleys primarily in the Piedmont; leaves are 3-5 in. long and heart-shaped; leaves usually turn yellow in fall

## Loblolly Pine

(*Pinus taeda*)



Tree of floodplains to well drained upland slopes, common in Piedmont; needles 6-10 in. long in bunches of three; Evergreen

## Flowering Dogwood

(*Cornus florida*)



Small tree of well-drained soils; leaves turn red or yellow in fall, red fruit in fall eaten by birds and other wildlife

## Black Cherry

(*Prunus serotina*)



Medium-sized tree that grows nearly everywhere except excessively wet sites; leaves are 2-6 in. long, narrowly oval, pointed; birds readily eat fruits



## Red Mulberry

(*Morus rubra*)



Often found on rich soils; leaves are 3-5 in. long, heart shaped or lobed, toothed, and pointed, turn yellowish in fall

## American Beech

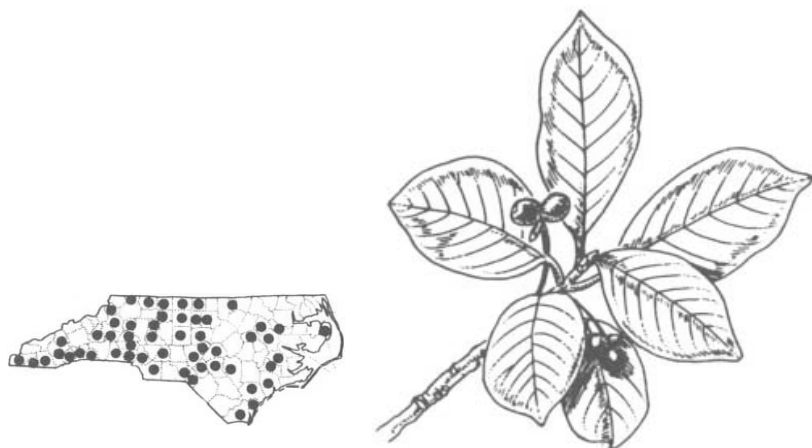
(*Fagus grandifolia*)



Tree of uplands and well-drained lowlands; leaves turn dull yellow to brown in fall; nuts serve as food for birds and other wildlife

## Blackgum

(*Nyssa sylvatica*)



Tree that grows in many conditions ranging from floodplains to dry uplands; leaves are 2-5 in. long; leaves often reddish early in fall or late summer

## White Ash

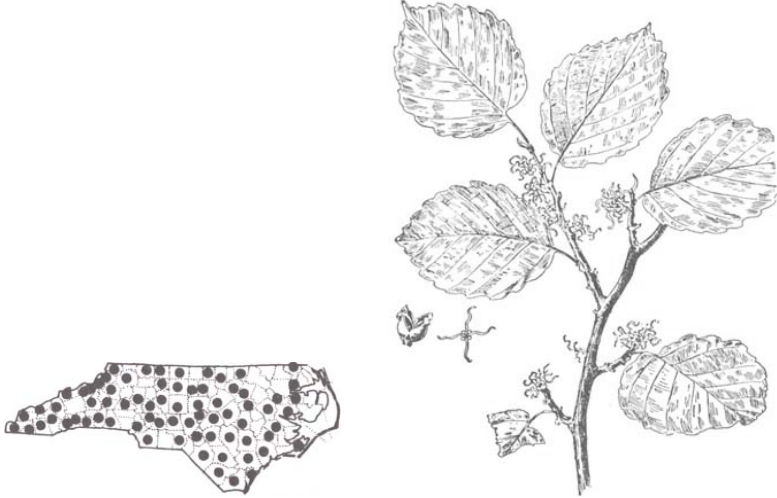
(*Fraxinus americana*)



Tree of well-drained soils and even lowlands; leaves are 8-12 in. long, and compound with 5-9 oblong leaflets, leaves turn yellow in fall

## Witch Hazel

(*Hamamelis virginiana*)



Small tree of hardwood forest understory; leaves are broadly elliptical, uneven at leaf base, turn yellow in fall

## Tulip Tree

(*Liriodendron tulipifera*)



Fast growing tree of moist but well-drained soils and uplands; leaves resemble a tulip in cross section, turn yellow in fall

## American Holly

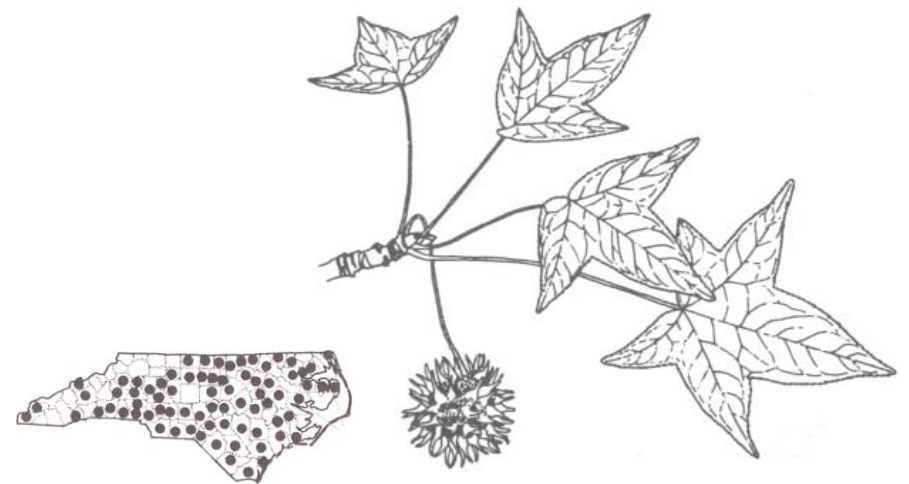
(*Ilex opaca*)



Tree of moist or well drained soils, floodplains or uplands; leaves are spiny, female trees bear red fruit in fall; Evergreen

## Sweet Gum

(*Liquidambar styraciflua*)



Tree of moist soils or uplands; leaves are star shaped, turn yellow to purple in fall