

Beech

Fagus grandifolia



Description: Large trees to 100 feet tall 4 feet diameter with clear, straight Trunks and compact rounded crowns of slender, spreading branches. Bark smooth, pale Gray. Fruit a spiny Burr containing two pyramid-shaped nuts. Buds long, very sharp-pointed, reddish-brown, scaled

Leaves: alternate on the twig, simple, formed on slender, very short, hairy leafstalks. Blade oval to 5 in long, half as wide, leathery, pointed at the tip, coarsely single tooth along edges. Upper surface blue-green, smooth, shiny topside and sometimes hairy below. Turn copper-gold in fall

Bark: thin, light gray to blue-gray, smooth, often marred by carvings or initials

Flowers: unisexual on the same tree appears after leafing. Male flowers densely clustered in a rounded head and hanging by a slender stalk to 2 in. Female flowers small, paired, on short to 3/4 in stocks at branch tips

Fruits: four parted, spiny burrs, each containing two triangular nuts. Edible and tasty, bird and mammal scattered

Habitat/Range: Most common in rich, moist, upland woods, but also in flatwoods and shallow depressions; located throughout Indiana, except in a few northwestern prairie counties