

## Persimmon

*Diospyros virginiana*



**Description:** medium sized tree to 60-80 feet tall, 1 through 2 feet diameter, with spreading crown branches often nearly at a right angle to the trunk. Dark broken into rough square blocks

**Leaves:** alternate simple born single on short less than 1 in blades oval to oblong 3 through 6 in Long half as wide. Leaf edges Smooth Dark glossy green above, Taylor and sometimes woolly beneath short points at tip, tapering or rounded base.

**Bark:** dark gray, broken into rough, alligator-like blocks on older trees. Young trees often show Orange between the blocks

**Flowers:** unisexual on separate trees. Tube-shaped male flowers to 1/2 in in clusters of two to three; solitary bell-shaped female flowers to 3/4 in are cream to Yellow

**Fruit:** a large 2 inch round fleshy Berry, usually orange, sweet, and tasty when ripe, but bitter if eaten green. Contains several flat oval to 1/2 inch brown seeds

**Habitat/Range:** relatively common in clearing, fencerows, and Old fields, often forming thickets of small trees. Occasional in mature Forest of Southern Indiana; native to Southern and Southwestern Indiana, widely planted or escaped from cultivation elsewhere in the state