

Boxelder

Acer negundo



Description: Medium-sized tree (to 60 feet tall, 3 feet diam.) with a short trunk and spreading, open crown. Twigs green; leaves opposite, compound, with 3-5 leaflets. Fruits are paired, V-shaped double

Leaves: Opposite on twig, compound; leaflets 3-5 (rarely 7), large, coarsely toothed to shallowly lobed. Overall leaf to 12 inches, with leafstalk 1/3 of length. Light green above, paler and usually hairy below. Turn pale yellow in autumn. Leaves resemble those of poison ivy

Bark: Light brown with fine ridges when young; becomes medium gray and furrowed with age

Flowers: Flowers greenish yellow at leafing in April/May; unisexual in clusters, male and female on separate trees. Male flowers long, thread-like; female in drooping clusters

Fruits: Fruits are paired, winged seeds, which form a V-shaped double propeller (to 1 ½ inches). Mature in late summer; wind-scattered

Habitat/Range: Rich moist woods along streams and in wooded wetlands. Common in fencerows and roadsides. Once widely planted as a street or lawn tree, rarely now. Range, throughout Indiana