

Hack Berry
Celtis occidentalis



Description: Medium to large tree (to 90 feet tall, 3 feet diam.) with alternate, simple leaves. Open, spreading, twiggy crown, often brushy. Gray bark with distinctive warty bumps. Fruit a small brown-purple berry

Leaves: Alternate on twigs, forming singly on short (to 1 inch) leafstalks. Blades (to 6 inches long) long, pointed, base uneven, edges toothed, smooth to roughened above, hairy below along the prominent veins

Bark: Gray to brown and smooth on young trees; soon covered with “warty” bumps. Mature trees with dark gray roughened ridges

Flowers: White in long drooping clusters

Fruits: Fleshy round (to $\frac{1}{8}$ inch); borne on long stalks; brown-purple when mature; flesh orange-brown, sweet, edible. One large (to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch), hard, round seed

Habitat/Range: Usually occurs along streams, on floodplains, or in low wet woods. Occasionally in fencerows or moist upland woods. Use as an ornamental is increasing. Throughout Indiana