

SAND HICKORY

Carya pallida (Ashe) Engl. and Graebn.

OTHER COMMON NAMES Pale hickory, Pallid hickory, Pignut hickory.

FORM: Usually 30-40 feet tall, trunk 1-1 1/2 feet in diameter, occasionally 90-110 feet high with a tall trunk 2-3 feet in diameter with stout branches, upper erect, lower often pendulous.

BARK: On large trees in good soil, pale and slightly ridged; on dry ridges, rough, deeply furrowed, dark gray, and southward often nearly black.

TWIGS: Slender red-brown, glabrous or pubescent.

LEAVES: Alternate, 7-15 inches long, compound with 7, rarely 9, leaflets 4-6 inches long, 1-2 inches wide, lanceolate or oblanceolate, finely serrate, acuminate, long-pointed at the apex, cuneate or rounded or often unsymmetrical at the base, resinous, fragrant; light green and lustrous above; pale, pubescent or puberulent below.

FLOWERS: Monoecious; staminate in aments covered with fascicled hairs and silvery scales, 2 1/2-6 inches long, puberulous and glandular on the outer surface; pistillate usually solitary, oblong, covered with yellow scales.

FRUIT: Pubescent and covered with yellow scales, ellipsoidal to broad obovoid, subglobose to depressed globose, 1/2-1 1/2 inch in length, splits tardily to the base by 2 or 3 sutures, may remain unopened until mid-winter; nut white, rounded at the ends or obtusely pointed at the apex, more or less prominently ridged nearly to the base; kernel small, sweet.

WINTER BUDS: Acute or obtuse, reddish-brown, puberulous and covered with silvery scales, terminal bud 1/4 inch long with 6-9 scales; usually fewer scales on the lateral buds.

WOOD: Brown, nearly white sapwood

USES: Probably little used, except for fuel.

HABITAT: Sandy soil, also on rich soil, in Alabama common hickory on gravelly and poor soils of the upland table-lands and ridges of the central part of the state.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS: Leaflets fragrant and long-pointed; fruit slow to open, may remain unopened until mid-winter; small nuts.

DISTRIBUTION IN ALABAMA: Through northern and central parts of the state of Dallas County.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE

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| 1. A flowering branch | 5. A nut |
| 2. A male flower, rear view | 6. One of the valves of the fruit |
| 3. A male flower, front view | 7. A winter branchlet |
| 4. A fruiting branch | |



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