

SUGARBERRY

Celtis laevigata Willd.

OTHER COMMON NAMES: Sugar hackberry, Hackberry, Texas sugarberry.

FORM: 60-80 feet high, trunk diameter 2-3 feet, spreading or pendulous branches form a round head.

BARK: 1/2-2/3 inch thick, pale gray, covered with prominent excrescences.

TWIGS: At first light green, glabrous, or pubescent, later become reddish-brown, rather lustrous, marked by pale oblong lenticels.

LEAVES: Alternate, simple, oblong-lanceolate, long-pointed and acuminate at apex, unsymmetrically rounded or cuneate or obliquely cuneate at base, other falcate, entire or with few teeth near the apex, or serrate, thin, smooth, glabrous or rarely rough above, light green on both surfaces, 2 1/2-5 inches long, 3/4-1 1/2 inch wide, with a narrow yellow midrib.

FLOWERS On slender glabrous pedicels; calyx divided into 5 ovate-lanceolate glabrous or puberulous scarious lobes with tufts of long white hairs at apex.

FRUIT: A drupe, glabrous, short-oblong to ellipsoid or obovoid, orange or yellow, 1/4 inch diameter, nutlet slightly wrinkled.

WINTER BUDS: Small, 1/16-1/8 inch long, ovate, sharp-pointed, scales chestnut-brown.

WOOD: Soft, not strong, coarsely grained, yellowish.

USES: Pulp, rough lumber. Historical uses: boxes, crates.

HABITAT: Prefers rich moist soil, also on upland soils.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS: Corkybark; leaves oblong-lanceolate, long-pointed, entire or few teeth near apex; fruit on glabrous pedicels shorter or only slightly longer than the petioles.

DISTRIBUTION IN ALABAMA: Apparently no special locality reported.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE

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| 1. A flowering branch | 8. A seed |
| 2. A staminate flower just expanding | 9. A branchlet with lanceolate entire leaves |
| 3. A staminate flower after anthesis | 10. A leaf |
| 4. A pistillate flower | 11. A leaf |
| 5. A fruiting branch | 12. Winter branchlet |
| 6. A fruit cut transversely | 13. A winter bud and leaf scar |
| 7. A nutlet | |



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