

Bitternut Hickory



Tree Type

This tree is deciduous and will lose its foliage for the winter.

Planting

Plant where the tree doesn't need to be moved as Bitternut Hickories transplant poorly. Refer to back for best planting practices for your bareroot.

Watering

Refer to watering guidelines on back for specific watering directions.

Pruning

Prune away dead and/or diseased branches when the tree is dormant.

Preferences

This tree requires partial to full sun which means it needs at least 4 hours of direct, unfiltered sunlight. It prefers acidic, moist, well-drained soil. Bitternut Hickory can tolerate alkaline soil, dry sites, and occasional flooding.

Attributes

Bitternut Hickory also known as Swamp Hickory can grow up to 50 to 70 ft in maturity and 40 to 50 ft in width. It grows moderately slow and can live up to 200 years. It has a slender trunk and broad crown that stands tall in strong winds. The canopy casts dappled light allowing ornamentals and grass to thrive underneath. Natively it grows in rich floodplains, woodland borders, drier swamps to poor uplands with low soil nutrients. Bitternut Hickory has compound leaves that turn a golden yellow in autumn. The wood is strong, heavy, and reddish brown, used for hoops, fuel, farm implements, and smoking meats.

Wildlife Value

Cavity nesting birds love this tree along with game birds, migrant birds, small mammals, and songbirds. The large number of insects the tree supports attracts many insectivorous birds such as Scarlet Tanager, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Carolina Chickadee and many more.