

Hackberry



Tree Type

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

Planting

The Hackberry's roots are strong and invasive so plant at least 20 ft away from buildings, septic systems and sidewalks. If used as windbreak, plant 10 to 18 ft apart. Refer to back for best planting practices for your bareroot.

Watering

It has some tolerance for both flooding and drought once established. Refer to watering guidelines on back for specific watering directions.

Pruning

Hackberries are low maintenance and require occasional pruning to remove dead and diseased branches, as well as branches that are growing vertically or rubbing against each other.

Preferences

Full sun is ideal meaning the tree needs at least 6 hours of direct, unfiltered sunlight each day. The Hackberry grows well in acidic, alkaline, loamy, moist, rich, sandy, well-drained, wet and clay soils.

Attributes

Hackberry grows to a height of 40 to 60 ft with a spread of 40 to 60 ft at maturity. It grows at a medium to fast rate with height increases of anywhere from 13 to more than 24 inches per year. The tree produces small, dark red drupes that persist into the winter. It develops a broad crown with arching branches and tolerate strong winds, pollution, heat and salt. The growth pattern resembles an elm with a rounded, vase-like shape.

Wildlife Value

The fruit of the hackberry is popular with winter birds, especially the cedar waxwing, mockingbird and robin. The tree also attracts many butterfly species including American snout, hackberry, mourning cloak, and tawny emperor.