

Carya glabra

[Synonyms : *Carya glabra* var. *hirsuta*, *Carya glabra* var. *megacarpa*, *Carya glabra* var. *odorata*, *Carya leiodermis*, *Carya magnifloridana*, *Carya microcarpa*, *Carya ovalis*, *Carya ovalis* var. *hirsuta*, *Carya ovalis* var. *odorata*, *Carya porcina*, *Carya porcina* var. *villosa*, *Hicoria austrina*, *Hicoria glabra*, *Hicoria glabra* var. *hirsuta*, *Hicoria microcarpa*, *Hicoria villosa*, *Juglans glabra*, *Juglans pyriformis*]

PIGNET HICKORY is a deciduous tree. Native to eastern North America it has yellowish-green catkins and leaflets that turn yellow to orange in Autumn.

It is also known as Bitternut, Black hickory, Book hickory, Broom hickory, Brown hickory, Butternut hickory, Coast pignut hickory, False shagbark, Hard shell, Hogbrake nut, Hognut, Little pignut, Little shagbark, Nutmeg hickory, Oval pignut hickory, Pig-nut, Redheart hickory, Red hickory, Small-fruited hickory, Small pignut, Smoothbark hickory, Smooth carya, Swamp hickory, Sweet hickory, Sweet pignut, Sweet pignut hickory, Switch-bud hickory, True hickory, and White hickory.

The flowers are pollinated by the wind.

The fruit husk splits half way when ripe to reveal the thick-shelled, brown nut.

Glabra is Latin (hairless, bald) meaning 'hairless or smooth '.

Sap can be tapped in the Spring and authorities claim that it can provide a refreshing drink.

Although the nuts are edible (and could be eaten raw or cooked) they are usually overlooked as they are not only small but have thick shells.

The strong brown wood was used by early European settlers for making brooms. In more recent times it has furnished material for agricultural implements, wagons, basketry, tool handles and sports equipment – and it is burnt widely as fuel for heating homes.

The nuts are eaten by squirrels and chipmunks, as well as other small creatures that also enjoy the leaves. Nuts and bark provide food for bears, foxes, raccoons and rabbits, while some deer feed on the leaves, twigs and nuts. On the other hand the flowers (and later the nuts) form part of the diet of many song birds and wild turkeys.

Although pignut hickory is valued for its shade the tree does not seem to lend itself to ornamental cultivation.