

CTPA Arboriculture 101 Tree ID – Hickories and Oaks

Hickory

Species	Buds	Bark	Leaflets	Nuts – Husks are 4 parted
Shagbark	Large brown end bud w/overlapping scales, Red/brn twig	Shaggy w/ thin long strips	Usually 5, s/t 7	Thick 4 ribbed husk and 4 ribbed nut Nut round at base
Mockernut	Woolly buds/twigs, large end bud w/overlapping scales drop in fall	Shaggy or netted with smooth ridges	Usually 7, s/t 9	Thick husk depressed at base Brown 4-angled nut
Bitternut	Paired bright yellow buds	Smooth ridged	5 to 11	Thin husk winged at seams
Pignut	Small egg shape bud w/overlapping scales drop in fall	Smooth ridged	Usually 5, s/t 7	Thin husk not winged, brown nut
Shellbark	Buds w/ overlapping scales Pale orange/brn to buff twigs w/ orange lenticels	Shaggy	Usually 7, s/t 9	Thick husk, nut pointed both ends with 4 to 6 ribs

Oaks

Oaks have clustered end buds.

White oaks (White, Swamp White and Chestnut) have rounded lobes on the leaves and annual acorns which are hairless inside nut shell.

Red oaks (Red, Pin, Black and Scarlet) have pointed, bristle-tipped leaves and biennial acorns which are hairy inside nut shell.

Red and Pin oaks have saucer shaped nut caps covering less than 1/3 of the nut; White, Swamp White, Chestnut, Black and Scarlet oaks have bowl shaped nut caps covering more than 1/3 of the nut.

Species	Buds	Bark	Leaves	Nuts
White	Small, red/brn oval buds w/ blunt point	Light gray w/narrow blocks	Rounded lobes, med sinus white underneath	Bowl, cap w/ swollen warty scales, oblong nut
Swamp White	Small, smooth round buds	Light gray-red w/ furrows	Rounded shallow lobes Pear shape, white under	Bowl, oblong nut, 1"-3" stalk
Chestnut	Sharp, smooth yel/brn buds	Dark brn/bl deeply ridged	Wavy margin, Chestnut leaf shape	Bowl, warty cap, oblong nut
Red	Robust, pointed red/brn	Dark brown/gray w/ orange furrows	Pointed tips, med sinuses	Saucer, large fat nut
Pin	Smooth pointed buds short, stubby branches	Brn/gray smooth to ridged	Pointed tips, deep sinus	Saucer, small ½" round nut, cap w/ fused scales
Black	Large pointed woolly gray, angled buds/twigs	Black, ridged/furrowed	Pointed tips, med sinuses leathery, glossy green above	Bowl, oblong nut w/ spike tip, cap w/ shingle like scales
Scarlet	White tipped pointed hairy buds	Dark, finely grooved	Pointed tips, deep sinuses	Bowl, oblong nut w/ bullseye at tip