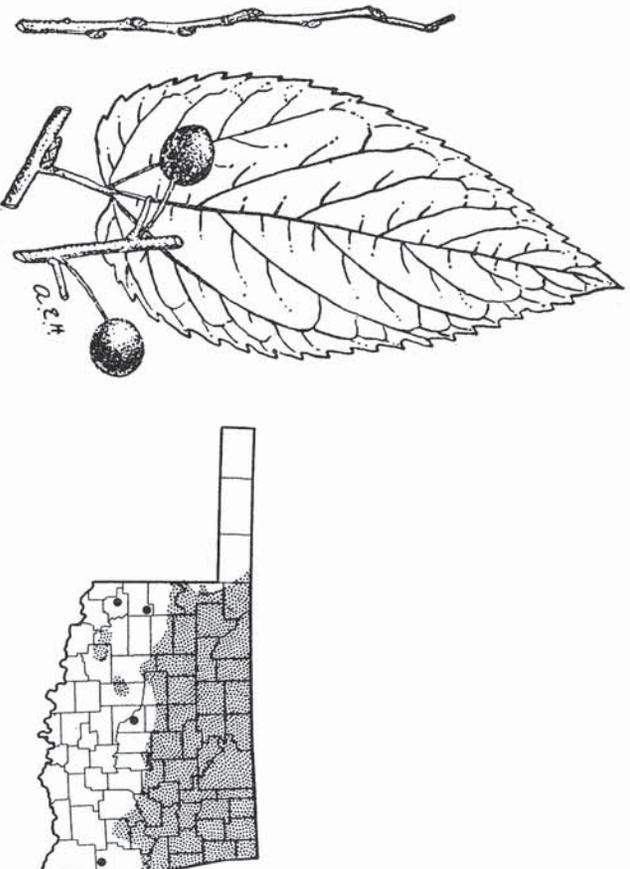


61. HACKBERRY

Celtis occidentalis L.; northern hackberry.

Medium-sized to large tree 60 ft. (18 m) high and 2 ft (0.6 m) in diameter, with rounded spreading open crown. Twigs slender, slightly zigzag, light brown, hairless; pith with chambers and plates. Buds slightly flattened and pressed against twig, pointed, light brown, with about 4 scales in 2 rows; no end bud.



Leaves in 2 rows, ovate, 2-4½ in (5-11 cm) long, 1-2 in (2.5-5 cm) wide, long-pointed, mostly *sharply toothed* except toward unequal sized rounded base with 3 main veins, thin or thick, *shiny green* and smooth or sometimes rough above, beneath paler and often hairy on veins, turning yellow in autumn.

Flowers several clustered on twigs with leaves in early spring, partly male and female, tiny, greenish.

Fruits (drupes) long-stalked at leaf bases, round, ¼-¾ in (6-10 mm) in diameter, mostly dark brown, dry and sweet, with 1 seed.

Bark gray or light brown, smoothish, with corky warts or ridges, becoming rough and scaly.

Wood yellowish or greenish gray, with thick light yellow sapwood, ring porous, coarse and uneven-textured, moderately heavy (sp.gr. .49), moderately hard. Uses include furniture, millwork, athletic goods, boxes and crates, and plywood.

Common in moist soil, mainly flood plain and valley forests, n. half of Okla. except panhandle; local in Wichita Mts. Widespread in e. half of U.S. except s. one-third. Zone 2.

This is the common hackberry in n. half of Okla. (except panhandle). Planted for shade and shelterbelts.