

SHAGBARK HICKORY

Carya ovata (Ka-ree-uh oh-vah-tuh)

ABOUT:

This large shade tree grows in dry uplands or moist valleys throughout Ohio. Several moth caterpillars —such as Hickory Horn Devil, Luna and Polyphemus — feed on its leaves. Squirrels, foxes, chipmunks, rabbits and birds love the nuts, and the peeling bark makes a home for overwintering bats, as well as mourning cloak and comma butterflies.

IFAE



15 inches long; medium green to dark yellow-green in summer and brilliant golden-yellow or yellow-brown in fall

SEED



Kernel is surrounded by a hard, bony shell with four ribs; thick outer husk splits open into four quarters when ripe

BARK



Distinctive shaggy bark that peels in long, wide, thick strips from the trunk and branches