

GREEN ASH

Fraxinus pennsylvanica Marsh.

Green or red ash occurs statewide except in Piscataquis, Franklin and Hancock Counties. It is not as abundant as the white and black ash, but is fairly common in central Maine. It is sometimes mistaken for black ash. It grows near the banks of streams and lakes on rich, moist soil.

It has stout branches which bend downward on older trees. These form an irregular, compact head in the forest. It seldom exceeds height of 50-60 feet and a diameter of 16-20 inches.

The **bark** on the trunk of old trees is firm and furrowed like that of the white ash. In color, it is dark gray, or brown.

The **twigs** of the season are greenish gray and covered with numerous hairs; sometimes with no hairs. Inner bark is cinnamon red in color.



The **leaves** are 10-12 inches long, opposite, 7-9 leaflets borne per stalk. Leaflets are 4 - 6 inches long, entire or wavy, or sometimes toothed, particularly on the upper-half of the leaflets, yellow-green on the upper surface, hairy below and on the rachis, and oval to elliptical in shape.

The **fruit** has a funnel-shaped seed body gradually blending into the terminal wing.

The **wood** is hard, heavy, fairly strong, coarse grained, and brittle. It is used in the same way as white ash, but the quality is not as good.