Shagbark Hickory
*Carya ovata* (P. Mill.) K. Koch

Shagbark hickory is most commonly found in southern Maine on moist but well-drained soil. It has a cylindrical head and a straight, gradually tapering trunk. It reaches a height of 70 feet and a diameter of 2 feet.

The bark is light gray on the trunk and separates into long, loose plates, giving it a shaggy appearance.

The leaves are compound, alternate, 8–14 inches long; most often there are 5 leaflets, rarely seven. The 3 terminal leaflets are the largest. Leaflet margins are serrate.

The fruit has the thick outer husk deeply grooved at the seams. The husk separates along these grooves when ripe. The fruit is globose and is borne singly or in pairs. The edible kernel is sweet. The twigs are hairy or smooth and olive-gray to dark red-brown. Pith is star-shaped in cross section. Bud scales are hairy.

*Shagbark hickory wood is primarily used to make pallets.*
The wood is very strong, close-grained, heavy, hard, tough and flexible. It was formerly used in the manufacture of agricultural implements, axe and tool handles, carriages and wagons, especially the spokes and rims of the wheels. Its principal uses are now pallets, pulp and firewood.

Shagbark hickory is easily distinguished by its bark, which separates into long, loose plates.