



BLACK ASH *Fraxinus nigra* Marsh.



Black or brown ash occurs statewide. It grows almost entirely on rich, moist ground or in cold, wet swamps and along the banks of streams.

It is a tall, slender tree with a short, narrow head. It grows to a height of 50–60 feet and a diameter of 10–20 inches. The trunk is often without branches for a considerable distance from the ground.

The **bark** is gray to dark gray, corky and spongy, with more or less parallel ridges. It rubs off freely with the hand.

Black ash wood is used for interior finishing, cabinet work, baskets and, to a limited extent, pulp.





The wing of black ash fruit completely surrounds the seed body.

The **leaves** are 12–15 inches long, opposite, and have 7–11 leaflets that are 4–5 inches long, and without stalks except the one at the tip. Leaflets are lance-shaped and have remotely-toothed margins. The upper surface is dark green. There are buff-colored hairs at the junction of the leaflets and rachis.

The **fruit** is a single samara occurring in clusters. The seed is flattened and completely surrounded by the wing.

The **twigs** are smooth, gray to olive-green. The buds are black or brown and pointed at the tip. The inner layer of the bark is dirty white.

The **wood** is coarse-grained, heavy, tough, durable and pliable. It is used for interior finishing, cabinet work, baskets and, to a limited extent, pulp. In the past it was used to make barrel hoops.



MAINE REGISTER OF BIG TREES 2008	
Black Ash	
Circumference:	139"
Height:	82'
Crown Spread:	56'
Location:	Waterboro

