

10,000 TREES INITIATIVE

TREE INFO CARD

Bitternut Hickory

(Carya cordiformis)

Get to know your tree:

The bitternut hickory is a Michigan native species with medium-sized, pinnately compound leaves, typically with 7-11 leaflets. The leaflets are oblong and emerge opposite one another, with one terminal leaflet which is larger than the rest. Fall leaf color is typically yellow or golden. Flowers are on long green catkins hanging in groups of three. Fruits are small, 4-sided nuts located inside rounded, thin-shelled husks that are green in color. Bark is grey, with shallow ridges.

Tree benefits:

Each year, a 1-inch diameter bitternut hickory provides approximately \$42.00 in benefits and reduces atmospheric CO₂ levels by 34 pounds. To learn more about the benefits provided by your tree, or to see the benefits provided by larger shagbark hickories, visit www.treebenefits.com.



Fun facts about your tree:

The nuts of the bitternut hickory are so bitter that even squirrels tend to avoid eating them.

The bitternut hickory has a dense root system that is great for soil stability.



Plant your tree:

When choosing where to plant this tree, consider spots with at least partial sun exposure (at least 4 hours of sun per day), though bitternut hickory can also thrive in shaded spots. Hickories grow to heights of 60-80 feet, with a spread of around 40-50 feet – make sure to consider the size of the tree and do not plant this tree in close proximity to buildings or underneath overhead utilities. Please also consider potential conflicts with solar panels! This species does best in well-drained, moist soils.

For detailed planting instructions, please visit www.arborday.org/trees/planting. And always make sure to call Miss Dig (1-800-482-7171) to mark underground utilities before digging on your property!

Care for your tree:

This species is relatively tolerant of drought, and won't require frequent watering. Watering should be done during dry periods - especially in the summer - but there's no set amount of water your tree needs. Instead, how much you water should be based on the soil. Check the soil at a depth of two inches - if it's moist, there's no need to water. But if it's dry, you should water your tree! Make sure not to water if the temperature is below freezing. Most trees need watering during the first two years after planting - but keep an eye on older trees as well.



www.a2gov.org/10ktrees