



BUTTERNUT *Juglans cinerea* L.



Butternut is sometimes used for furniture and cabinetwork and takes a high polish.

Butternut, also known as white walnut, occurs naturally or in cultivation to some extent statewide. It grows on rich, moist soil and on rocky hills, especially along fencerows. It frequently has stout, spreading limbs extending horizontally from the trunk to form a low, broad, rounded head. It grows to 30–40 feet high and a diameter of 1–2 feet. Currently, butternut is under severe threat from butternut canker, *Sirococcus clavignenti-juglandacearum*. This fungus was most likely introduced from outside of North America and is now killing butternuts throughout much of Maine.

The **bark** of young trees and of the branches is gray. On old trees, it is broadly ridged on the trunk and light brown.

The **leaves** are compound with a terminal leaflet, alternate, 15–30 inches long, and consist of 11–17 leaflets. The leaflets have serrate margins.





The **fruit** is composed of a nut enclosed by a fleshy husk covered with sticky hairs. It is about 2½ inches long and oval shaped. Fruit is produced in drooping clusters of 3–5. The nut is thick-shelled with sharp ridges on the surface. American Indians used the oil from the nuts to make butter. Brown dye was made from the husk.

The **twigs** are stout, greenish and hairy, with chocolate-brown, chambered pith. The large leaf scars have a conspicuous, buff-colored hairy pad at the top; the buds are also hairy.

The **wood** is coarse-grained, light, soft and weak. It is sometimes used for furniture and cabinetwork and takes a high polish.



MAINE REGISTER OF BIG TREES 2008
 Butternut Circumference: 186" Height: 74' Crown Spread: 88' Location: Durham

