

Leaves, Limbs, Needles & Boughs

by Fred D. Opperman

Fraxinus americana (frak'si-nus a-mer-i-ka'na) White Ash

This is one of the more common trees that one sees in the landscape and on the golf courses. It will give more color than the Green Ash in the fall with shades of yellow thru purple. The White Ash is a very handsome tree when it is allowed to grow to it's full size. Some of the best cultivars are: "Autumn Applause" which has outstanding dark maroon fall color. "Autumn Purple" which is a male seedless variety and has great fall color. "Champaign County" has good growth habit with smaller and darker green leaves. "Rosehill" which is seedless, dark green summer foliage; bronze red fall color and tolerant of poor alkaline soils. At the present time any of these varieties are hard to find in the 3 to 4 inch caliper size.

LEAVES: Opposite, pinnately compound, 5 to 9 leaflets, usually 7, stalked, 2 to 6" long, ovate to ovate lanceolate, usually or slightly dentate toward apex, dark green above, glaucous beneath and usually glabrous. (Glaucous=green with a bluish cast or covered with a whitish bloom that can be rubbed off, as grapes and plums. Glabrous=without hair, smooth)



BUD: Terminal present, 2 to 3 pairs of scales, semi-spherical to broadly ovate, scurfy and more or less slightly downy, rust to dark brown to sometimes almost dark. Terminal about 1/5" long, usually broader than long. Buds insert in the leaf scar.

STEMS: Stout, rounded, smooth and shining grayish or greenish brown often with slight bloom, flattened at nodes at right angles to leaf scars. Leaf scars "U" shaped with deep to shallow notch; vascular bundles forming open "C" shape.



SIZE: 50 to 80' in height with a spread of similar proportions, can grow to 120"

BARK: Ashy-gray to gray-brown, furrowed into close diamond-shaped areas.

Credit: "Manual of Woody Landscape Plants"
by Michael A. Dirr



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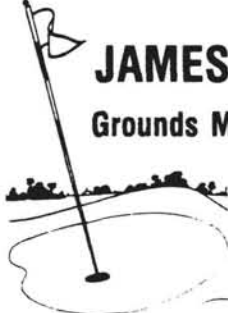


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