

Leaves, Limbs, Needles and Boughs

by Fred D. Opperman

This month's selection is a tree that can be grown under various conditions — wet, dry, windy, acid, alkaline, full sun, moderate shade or whatever you may have.

This all around tree is the Hackberry, *Celtis occidentalis*. It is considered a medium or large size tree with a height of up to 80 feet tall and with a trunk diameter of 5 feet. The bark on the trunk is gray and smooth on young trees, but as the tree ages it becomes "warty", rough, and scaly. The twigs are slender, gray to reddish brown, smooth and many times zigzag in shape.



The leaves are alternate, simple blades ovate or broadly lance shaped, long pointed at the tip and up to 6 inches long and up to half as wide. They are usually coarsely toothed along the edges except smooth or more often rough-hairy on one or both sides.



The leaf color is dull light to medium green in summer and yellow, yellow green for the fall.

The flowers are arranged in drooping cluster, or sometimes solitary, appearing after the leaves are partly grown, greenish-yellow, without petals. The fruit is fleshy, nearly round, dark purple, about 1/2 to 1/3 of an inch in diameter. The fruit ripens in September/October and is sought after by the birds.

The wood is heavy, soft, close grained and pale yellow. This is a medium to fast grower, 20 to 30 feet over a 10 to 15 year period.

This is another excellent tree to start planting more of, since it can be used in so many areas where other trees would have trouble growing. This tree is available in most nurseries and transplants very well.

Golden Tee Club Supporters

The Midwest Association of GCS was one of 14 chapters providing financial support to GCSAA Scholarship & Research during the foundation's recently completed 1990-1991 fiscal year. In addition to the chapter's donation of \$2,000, 11 superintendents from Illinois were members of the Golden Tee Club, the grassroots support organization for GCSAA S&R.

"Chapter and individual member support are absolutely crucial to our ability to fund turfgrass research and to offer scholarship assistance to future golf course superintendents," said Stephen G. Cadenelli, CGCS, president of GCSAA. "We commend the Midwest Association of GCS and its members for their high level of involvement and assistance."

The Midwest Association of GCS earned a "group" membership in the Golden Tee Club for its contribution. Cadenelli and fellow board members also noted with appreciation the following Illinoisans who held individual memberships in the Golden Tee Club:

Leonard H. Berg, CGCS; Edward W. Fischer, CGCS; Carl G. Hoppman; Tod W. Hoppman; Marvin Laird, CGCS; Peter V. Leuzinger, CGCS; Robert M. Lohmann; Dudley H. Smith; John A. Stephenson, CGCS; Michael D. Vogt, CGCS; and Bruce R. Williams, CGCS.

Golden Tee Club membership is open to individuals who contribute \$100 or more annually and corporations, clubs, chapters and other organizations that contribute \$1,000 or more annually to support GCSAA S&R. During the past fiscal year, contributions to the Club totaled almost \$20,000.

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