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## Carya glabra

**Bloom Color** Yellow  
**Bloom Time** Spring

**Leaf Color** Green  
**Fall Color** Yellow

This plant has attractive fall colors.

**Fruit Color** Brown and green  
The fruit is dry, oval and round.

### Environment

This plant tolerates drought, occasional wetness and some salt.

This plant will grow in very dry to occasionally wet soil. Suitable soil is well-drained/loamy, sandy or clay. The pH preference is an acidic to slightly alkaline (less

### Carya glabra

Pignut Hickory, Broom Hickory  
Juglandaceae (Walnut)

Nomenclature: Royal Hort. Society

**Type** Tree, woody plant  
**Hardy range** 4B to 9A  
**Height** 50' to 75' / 15.20m to 22.80m  
**Spread** 25' to 35' / 7.60m to 10.60m  
**Growth rate** Average  
**Form** Oval  
**Exposure** Partial shade or partial sun to full sun  
**Persistence** Deciduous

### Attributes and Features

- Pest tolerant
- Attracts butterflies
- Inconspicuous blooms
- Persistent fruit
- Inconspicuous fruit
- Fruit can be a litter problem
- Fruit attracts animals
- Ozone tolerant

### Native Habitat

On dry ridge tops and slopes, occasionally in moist areas, as a scattered tree in oak-hickory forests in eastern North America to south-central Florida.

### Additional Notes

This plant typically grows with one trunk.

Little pruning is required.

This plant has low flammability.

National champion for var. glabra 105 x 125 feet is in Georgia.

### Culture Notes

Pignut Hickory grows best in sun or partial shade on well-drained, acid soils and is very drought-tolerant. Trees can be seen in dry woodlands. Trees will show minor-element deficiencies on alkaline soils. It grows well in sand or clay, sending deep roots down below the trunk in well-drained soil. Plants serve as hosts for butterfly larvae. Tiny fruit can help separate this from other hickories.

Large existing trees are often left near new homes and other buildings in new developments. Roots damaged by construction equipment can decay quickly. This can leave the plant with few supporting roots in the years following construction despite a green canopy. The tree could fall over as a result. In addition, branches that are suddenly exposed to unlimited light when nearby trees are removed begin to grow rapidly. As a result, they could become too long and break. Consider shortened them with reduction cuts to help prevent breakage. Trees are considered good compartmentalizers of decay.

Hickory wood is versatile and is used for chair legs, tool handles, including axes and hammers, and for smoking meat and fish. Fruit ripens in fall and is a source of food for many species of wildlife. This is an under-utilized native tree

with potential for much wider use in parks. Young trees have a distinct tap root which can challenge the tree nursery operator. Trees resist breakage in ice storms compared to many of the more finely branched trees. Trees have a reputation for displaying a great sensitivity to impacts of construction activities in the root zone.

Wood specific gravity averages about 0.75 g/cc. Hickories are considered a ring porous or semi-ring porous wood. They generate pollen that causes allergies in many people.

### **Spring transplanting best**

Balled-and-burlapped and bare root trees recover best when transplanted in late winter or early spring in the cooler portions of North America. This usually corresponds to the initiation of root growth.

### **Pests, Diseases and Damaging Agents**

Pests: Borers, bagworms, and fall webworms but none are normally serious. Fall webworms can devour large quantities of foliage during the summer and fall but they cause no lasting damage and control is not needed. Galls are common on the leaves but cause no real damage.

Hickory bark beetle is a problem, particularly during droughts. Lacebugs can cause leaf stippling, bronzing and defoliation. Dogwood borer enters the trunk through wounds such as pruning cuts and other mechanical injuries.

Diseases: Scab occasionally infects Hickories.

### **Special Notes**

This plant has aggressive roots.

