



# Ash Tree Information and Identification



## Ash Species in Maine

There are three species of ash tree that are native to Maine...

1. Green Ash
2. White Ash
3. Brown/Black Ash

Identification of each species can be difficult because they have many similar traits.

## How to ID Ash

**Branches & buds:** Buds and branches are opposite, meaning they are situated directly across from each other on the trunk or stems.

**Leaves:** There are multiple leaflets along a central leaf stalk, also known as a compound leaf. Ash leaves have a terminal leaflet at the end of the leaf stalk. Brown and green ash leaves typically have 7-9 leaflets, and white ash leaves have 5-7. Leaf margins can be serrated or smooth.

**Bark:** The bark of ash trees changes as the tree ages. Young ash often has smoother, uniform bark, while mature ash bark is ridged and has a diamond-shaped pattern.

**Seeds:** Present in the summer. The seeds are a single-winged samara that is relatively oar-shaped.

Resource: [Ash Tree Identification Bulletin E-2942 \(msu.edu\)](http://msu.edu)



Brown Ash  
(corky texture)

Green Ash

White Ash



Green Ash  
(*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*)



White Ash  
(*Fraxinus americana*)



Brown Ash  
(*Fraxinus nigra*)

## Ash Facts

- White ash is a hardwood timber species that is used for tool handles and baseball bats because of the wood's high shock absorbance
- Green ash are one of the most popular street and landscape trees in the U.S.
- Brown ash has large cultural importance among the Wabanaki people, as it plays a lead role in their origin story and has been used to craft baskets for hundreds of years

If you have any questions regarding ash identification, please contact the Bangor Department of Public Works Forestry Division at 207-992-4514.