PLANT FACT SHEET

Carya tomentosa (Poir.) Nutt.

GENUS *Carya* **FAMILY** Juglandaceae

COMMON NAMES Mockernut Hickory, Bigbud hickory, Bullnut, Square nut, White-heart hickory, White Hickory

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Nuts, Seeds, Sap

The seeds are sweet and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A large tree. It grows 30 m tall. The bark is dark grey and has flat ridges and shallow furrows. The tree has a rounded crown. The leaves are compound and 20-50 cm long. The leaves have 9 oblong leaflets They are dark green on the upper surface and downy underneath. The flowers are very small and green. The male flowers are in slender drooping catkins. There are 3 catkins hanging from one stalk. There are 2-5 female flowers at the tip of the same twig. The shell of the fruit is thick. The fruit are round to oval and 35 mm across. The nuts are edible.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It grows on drier hills in the USA. It grows up to 900 m altitude. It suits hardiness zones 4-9.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seeds. It can also be grown by cuttings.

Harvesting and Seed Production

The shells are hard to crack.

NOTES

There are about 14-25 Carya species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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