

# Cherokee Ethnobiology

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## SHAGBARK HICKORY

### Cherokee Usage

Shagbark hickory has many different uses such as the primary wood used to make stickball sticks, crafting bows, handles, firewood, smoking meats, furniture, hickory syrup and crushed kernels could be crushed and the oil extracted from them was used as cooking oil. The shagbark nut was preferred buy some in making kenuche (others favoring the White Hickory). When utilized for furniture, the Cherokees were skilled at stripping the inner bark on only one side of the tree, allowing the tree to remain alive.

### Description

The shagbark hickory is a very tall tree that can attain heights of nearly 90 feet tall and can live for nearly 200 years. Shagbark hickories can easily be distinguished from other hickory trees by the shaggy bark hanging from the tree trunk. Younger trees are more difficult to identify from other hickory trees since the bark is not yet flaking off. Therefore, the leaves are used to distinguish young shagbarks from other hickories. The shagbark hickory has 5 leaflets on each leaf. The 3 terminal leaflets are much larger than the 2 basal leaflets. The shagbark also produces a large nut, making it preferred over other hickory nuts. The wood is also very hard and dense.

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| <b>Where found:</b> | Shagbark hickory can be found growing in the oak-hickory forests in Adair, Cherokee, and southern Delaware Counties.  |
| <b>Other names:</b> | Scaly-bark Hickory, Shellbark hickory   |
| <b>Taxonomy:</b>    | Kingdom - Plantae<br>Phylum - Magnoliophyta<br>Class - Magnoliopsida<br>Order – Fagales<br>Family – Juglandaceae<br>Genus – <i>Cary</i><br>Species – <i>ovata</i> |

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