

PESTS AND DISEASES

Sugarberry is susceptible to damage by ice and fire. It has no major diseases of the twigs and leaves, however it is a favorite host of mistletoe. Sometimes witches broom will occur. This is caused by a mite or a powdery mildew. It does not kill the tree; it just makes the tree unattractive. The main symptom is clusters of abnormally short twigs, which are scattered throughout the tree crown. Pruning out the clusters will help with its appearance.



James Manhart, TAMU-BWG

For More Information Contact:



Nicholls State University
Cajal State University Campus
P.O. Box 2663
Thibodaux, LA 70310
Phone: 1-800-259-0869

United States Department of Agriculture



Golden Meadows Plant Materials Center
438 Airport Road
Galliano, LA 70354
Phone: (985) 475-5280
Fax: (985) 475-6545

For more information about other plants, please contact your local NRCS field office or Conservation District, and visit the PLANTS <<http://plants.usda.gov>> and Plant Materials Program Web sites <<http://plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov>>.

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SUGARBERRY

Celtis laevigata Willd

For Coastal Wetlands



Noble Foundation Plant Image Gallery



Marry Floyd, USDA, NRCS



Dr. Malcolm Viraine, LSUE

Helping People Help the Land...

June 2008

United States Department of Agriculture



WHY SUGARBERRY?

Sugarberry, also known as Hackberry, is a large, fast growing, native tree found throughout Louisiana in a variety of habitats. However, it is most abundant in the southernmost third of the state.

It is a good shade tree in the Elm family and is planted as an ornamental because it tolerates a wide variety of conditions, including, moderate salt spray, periodic salt water flooding on roots, drought, and poor, wet soils.

The most important feature of Sugarberry is its fruit. In mid-summer, raccoons eat the green fruits. By late summer and early fall, the fruits ripen and begin to turn a dark orange. Fall-migrating thrushes, mimic thrushes, and tanagers benefit from these fruits. From November to January, the

trees become covered with large flocks of bright colorful birds- American Robin, cardinal, cedar waxwing, European Starling, common grackle, Eastern Bluebird, gray catbird, Northern Mockingbird, brown thrasher, and a variety of woodpeckers.



David Menke, USFWS

The leaves and twigs provide browse for white-tailed deer and livestock. The leaves provide larval food for several butterflies-snout, question mark, mourning cloak, tawny emperor, and hackberry.

The wood is rather soft, weak, light yellow. Small amounts are used for dimension stock, veneer, and containers. However, the main use is for furniture. The light-colored wood is favored because it can be given a light- to medium-brown finish unlike other woods that have to be bleached.



Dr. Malcolm Vidrine, LSUE

DESCRIPTION

Sugarberry is a medium-sized deciduous tree that reaches a height of 100 feet and lives up to 150 years. The bark is gray-brown to silvery gray and covered with many prominent warty projections. The leaves are alternate, simple, deciduous, thin,

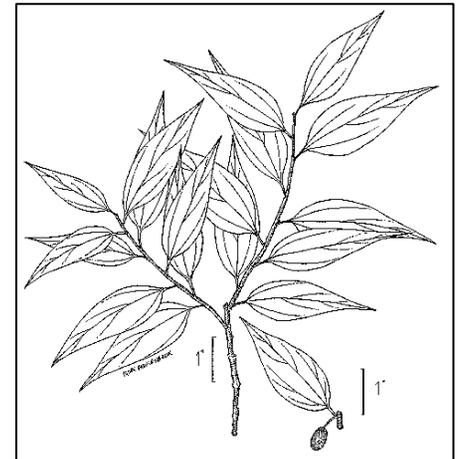


light green, long pointed at the tip, and with a smooth surface. The margins are without teeth. The small, greenish or cream-colored flowers appear in the spring. The fruits are round drupes that appear in late summer and early fall.

PROPAGATION AND ESTABLISHMENT

There are no known cultivars or varieties that are originally from Louisiana available and not many nurseries have Sugarberry in stock. However, Sugarberry can easily be propagated by seed or by cuttings. Seed production begins when the trees are 15 years old. They will continue to produce seeds until they are from about 30 to 70 years old. Mature fruits can be picked from early summer to mid winter. It is sometimes easier to pick the fruits after the leaves have fallen. After the seeds have been collected, place them in moist peat moss in the refrigerator for 60 to 90 days. Plant the seeds outdoors 8 to 10 inches apart and cover with 2 inches of firmed soil. The average germination rate for Sugarberry is 55 percent.

When choosing a site to plant Sugarberry, there are two considerations. Some studies have shown that Sugarberry produces mild allelopathic chemicals that may reduce the growth of certain grasses and other plants close to the tree. The second consideration is that the surface roots can lift sidewalks or interfere with mowing.



Mark Mohlenbrock, USDA, NRCS