

## Green Ash – Elm Species – Common Hackberry Forest

**Site Characteristics:** This community is found along upper floodplain terraces of large and small alluvial or brownwater rivers; on low ridges, flats, and sloughs of first bottoms; on terrace flats and sloughs; and in upland ravine bottoms. Soils are typically base-rich alluvial and moderately well-drained to poorly drained. This community is typically found between a wetter or earlier successional forest on the river side and upland forest or prairie communities on the landward side.

**Vegetation Characteristics:** This forest has an open to closed tree canopy. Species composition differs somewhat with geography and topographic position. The overstory is composed of deciduous trees with an uneven canopy. Dominant species in these forests are some combination of Green Ash, Hackberry, and American Elm. Characteristic canopy and subcanopy species include Overcup Oak, Bur Oak, Slippery Elm, Persimmon, Honey Locust, Red Maple, Box Elder, Silver Maple, Sycamore, Cottonwood, Black Willow, Pecan, Red Mulberry, Blue Beech, and Pawpaw. Occasionally, small occurrences of this community may be composed of almost pure Green Ash particularly on moist flats or in shallow sloughs; whereas occurrences on fronts are more likely to be dominated by Hackberry.

Common shrubs include Rough-leaved Dogwood, Blue Beech, Gray Dogwood, Red Mulberry, Hawthorn spp., Willow spp., and Red-osier Dogwood.

The forb and vine strata are abundant, especially in canopy gaps. Composition may vary somewhat with flooding regime and geographic location. Common herbaceous graminoid species include Virginia Wild Rye, Gray's Sedge, Hop Sedge, Bent Bracted Sedge, Great Bladder Sedge, as well as many other Sedge species. Common forbs in the herbaceous layer include Clearweed, Stiff Bedstraw, Butterweed, Violet spp., Swamp Milkweed, Spotted Joe-pye-weed, Boneset, Touch-me-not spp., and Wood Nettle. Vines are especially common in these forests, and may include Poison Ivy, Riverbank Grape, Virginia creeper, Green Brier, and Rydberg's Poison Ivy. Ferns may also be present.



### Iowa NRCS Plant Community Description

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**Range:** This is a very widely distributed community.

**Conservation Status:** G4 - Apparently Secure

**Management Considerations:** In the leveed Mississippi River Alluvial Plain, this community typically succeeds from Black Willow Riverfront Forest away from the levee; from Sycamore - American Elm Bottomland Forest following repeated disturbance; and from Mixed Bottomland Oak Forest following repeated selective harvests. American Elm is abundant in some stands, but Dutch elm disease has reduced its presence across most of its range. In addition, due to this community's high ash component, the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer is a significant threat to this community.

CENTRAL GREEN ASH - ELM - HACKBERRY FOREST						
SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	STRATA	FUNCTIONAL GROUP	IA CofC	SEEDS/LB	STATE STATUS
<i>Acer negundo</i>	Box elder	Sub-canopy	TREE	0	11,360.00	
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red maple	Sub-canopy	TREE	*	22,720.00	
<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	Silver maple	Canopy, Associate	TREE	1	1,440.00	
<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Swamp milkweed	Herbaceous Layer	P-FORB	4	76,800.00	
<i>Asimina triloba</i>	Pawpaw	Sub-canopy	SHRUB	6	697.00	SC
<i>Carex grayi</i>	Common bur sedge	Herbaceous Layer	P-SEDGE, COOL SEASON	7	19,200.00	
<i>Carex intumescens</i>	Greater Bladder Sedge	Herbaceous Layer	P-SEDGE, COOL SEASON			
<i>Carex lupulina</i>	Common hop sedge	Herbaceous Layer	P-SEDGE, COOL SEASON	6	52,800.00	
<i>Carex retroflexa</i>	Bent bracted sedge	Herbaceous Layer	P-SEDGE, COOL SEASON	5		SC
<i>Carex spp.</i>	True Sedges	Herbaceous Layer	SEDGE, COOL SEASON			
<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	Blue beech	Sub-canopy	TREE	9	30,000.00	
<i>Carya illinoensis</i>	Pecan	Canopy, Associate	TREE	7	96.00	
<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Hackberry	Canopy, Dominant	TREE	2	96,000.00	
<i>Cornus drummondii</i>	Rough-leaved dogwood	Shrub Layer	SHRUB	6	15,700.00	
<i>Cornus foemina</i>	Gray dogwood	Shrub Layer	SHRUB	1	17,718.00	
<i>Cornus sericea</i>	Red-osier dogwood	Shrub Layer	SHRUB	7	18,400.00	
<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	Persimmon	Sub-canopy	TREE	1	26,880.00	

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<i>Elymus virginicus</i>	Virginia wild rye	Herbaceous Layer	P-GRASS, COOL SEASON	3	67,200.00	
<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>	Spotted Joe-pye-weed	Herbaceous Layer	P-FORB	5	1,520,000.00	
<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	Boneset	Herbaceous Layer	P-FORB	6	2,560,000.00	
<i>Fern spp.</i>	Fern	Herbaceous Layer	FERN			
<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica lanceolata</i>	Green ash	Canopy, Dominant	TREE	1	14,320.00	
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	Herbaceous Layer	A-FORB	1	500,000.00	
<i>Galium tinctorium</i>	Stiff bedstraw	Herbaceous Layer	P-FORB	7	500,000.00	
<i>Geum canadense</i>	White avens	Herbaceous Layer	P-FORB	2	400,000.00	
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>	Honey locust	Sub-canopy	TREE, LEGUME	0	2,800.00	
<i>Impatiens capensis</i>	Spotted touch-me-not	Herbaceous Layer	A-FORB	3	64,000.00	
<i>Impatiens pallida</i>	Pale touch-me-not, jewel weed	Herbaceous Layer	A-FORB	5	25,600.00	
<i>Impatiens spp.</i>	Touch-me-not	Herbaceous Layer	A-FORB			
<i>Juglans nigra</i>	Black walnut	Canopy, Associate	TREE	4	40.00	
<i>Laportea canadensis</i>	Wood nettle	Herbaceous Layer	P-FORB	3	185,899.00	
<i>Morus rubra</i>	Red mulberry	Sub-canopy	TREE	4	344,667.00	
<i>Packera glabella</i>	Butterweed	Herbaceous Layer	A-FORB	*	450,000.00	SC
<i>Parthenocissus vitacea</i>	Woodbine	Vine Component	W-VINE	1		
<i>Pilea pumila</i>	Clearweed	Herbaceous Layer	A-FORB	3	273,413.00	
<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	Sycamore	Canopy, Associate	TREE	5	192,000.00	
<i>Populus deltoides</i>	Cottonwood	Canopy, Dominant	TREE	1	425,000.00	
<i>Quercus lyrata</i>	Overcup oak	Canopy, Associate	TREE	10	140.00	
<i>Quercus marilandica</i>	Blackjack oak	Canopy, Associate	TREE	4	700.00	
<i>Quercus muehlenbergii</i>	Chinquapin oak	Canopy, Associate	TREE	7	400.00	
<i>Ribes missouriense</i>	Wild gooseberry	Shrub Layer	SHRUB	3	163,163.00	
<i>Salix nigra</i>	Black willow	Canopy, Associate	TREE	3	2,500,000.00	
<i>Smilax tamnoides</i>	Greenbrier	Vine Component	W-VINE	4	19,147.00	
<i>Symphoricarpos occidentalis</i>	Wolfberry, buckbrush	Shrub Layer	SHRUB	0	75,033.00	

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SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	STRATA	FUNCTIONAL GROUP	IA CofC	SEEDS/LB	STATE STATUS
<i>Tilia americana</i>	Basswood, American linden	Canopy, Associate	TREE	5	4,765.00	
<i>Toxicodendron radicans</i>	Poison ivy	Vine Component	W-VINE	0	30,442.00	
<i>Toxicodendron rydbergii</i>	Rydberg's poison ivy	Vine Component	SHRUB, W-VINE	0		
<i>Ulmus americana</i>	American elm	Canopy, Dominant	TREE	2	68,000.00	
<i>Ulmus rubra</i>	Red elm, slippery elm	Sub-canopy	TREE	2	41,000.00	
<i>Viola spp.</i>	Violet	Herbaceous Layer	P-FORB			
<i>Vitis riparia</i>	Riverbank grape	Vine Component	W-VINE	1	15,200.00	

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