

Carya - Growing Guide

Growing Carya

Commonly known as 'Hickory'

Recently I was completely 'stumped' by a large vigorous and spreading tree at Ventnor Botanic Gardens. The spectacular pinnate dark green leaves suggested that the tree ought to be evergreen but I was not fooled. What was more of a puzzle was the oval green fruits appearing singly or in small clusters all over the tree. They looked like young conkers without the spikes or walnuts. Eventually I worked it out – *Carya ovata* – the 'Shagbark Hickory' from North America.



Carya ovata



Carya ovata



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Carya glabra

These trees are 60-80ft tall in maturity with a broadly similar spread. They will grow well in full sun or partial shade in rich fertile soil. When we grow these in deep pots in the nursery they develop a sturdy tap root and are best planted out quickly.

These trees are not dioecious and produce male and female flowers on the same tree. So many more obscure trees require two trees of different sexes but not the hickories!

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