



Ash Tree Identification Guide



Kentucky coffeetree



Black locust



Additional identification characteristics

Ash flower gall

Many ash trees have ash flower gall. The distorted growth is caused by a mite in spring. The galls harden and turn brown by autumn but usually do not affect the health of the tree.



Ash species and their terminal buds



Green Ash
Common cultivars: *Marshall's Seedless, Patmore, Bergeson, Cimmaron, Summit*

White Ash
Common cultivars: *Autumn Purple, Autumn Blaze, Autumn Applause*

Black Ash
Common cultivar: *Fallgold*

Blue Ash
Common cultivar: *True Blue*

Photo Credits:
Boxelder branch: Jan Samanek, bugwood.org; **leaf:** Ohio State Weed Lab Archive, bugwood.org; **seed:** Roberta Gibson, blog.growingwithscience.com **Mountain-ash seed:** Boris Hrasovec, bugwood.org; **leaf:** Oregon state University; **bark:** Becca Macdonald, bugwood.org **Black walnut branch:** E. John Barker, canadiantreetours.org; **leaf:** Virginia Tech; **Tree-of-heaven branch:** Dr. Donald Farrar, public.iastate.edu/bot356; **leaf and bark:** Leslie J. Mehrhoff, bugwood.org **Kentucky coffeetree leaf:** namethatplant.net; **bark:** Jason Shamon, bugwood.org **Black locust branch:** John Cardina, bugwood.org; **leaf:** Paul Wray, bugwood.org; **seed:** Stephen F. Austin State University; **bark:** Leslie J. Mehrhoff, bugwood.org **Ash flower gall fall:** University of Missouri Extension **Terminal buds:** **White ash-**Virginia Tech; **Black ash-**Jost Benning, tree-guide.com; **Blue ash-**ohioplants.org

Front panel: green ash in fall color; Crawford, Nebraska

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A comparison of trees that look similar to ash trees

Ash



Branch pattern

- Branches, buds and leaves of ash grow directly across from each other (opposite).
- Boxelder is the same.
- Others are staggered (alternate).

Boxelder



**Mountain-ash
(not a true ash)**



Black walnut

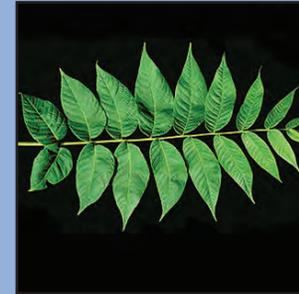


Tree-of-heaven



Leaf and leaflets

- Ash leaves have 5-11 leaflets.
- Boxelder has 3-5 leaflets.
- Others have more.



Seeds and fruit

- Ash seeds are paddle-shaped but not all ash trees produce seeds.
- Boxelder seeds are wing-like.
- Others are different.



Bark

- Young ash trees have smooth bark that thickens into a diamond-shaped pattern as the trees age. The color is usually gray.
- Boxelder is similar but a lighter gray-brown.
- Others are different.

