

Shade Tree (over 30')  
Deciduous  
Native  
Map #3

*White Ash*  
(*Fraxinus americana*)  
Family: *Oleaceae*



**Leaves:** opposite, pinnately compound, 5-9 (usually 7) stalked leaflets, ovate-lanceolate, usually entire to serrate toward apex; fall - yellow, purple and maroon.

**Buds:** scruffy, rusty brown to brown black, terminal broader than long, bud inset into narrow leaf scar.

**Stems:** smooth, stout, grayish-green-brown, flattened at nodes, leaf scar narrow, almost U-shaped.

**Bark:** ash gray, diamond patterned.

**Flowers:** not showy, usually on separate plants; small, green to purple, in clusters. Male flowers may develop flower gall caused by a mite. Flower galls start out green and turn brown late in the season.

**Fruits:** samaras, 1-2" long, body rounded in cross section, wing extending about 1/3 of the way down the body, broadest near the tip.

**Habit:** young – upright oval, maintains single leader; older – open rounded.

**Culture:** Very adaptable. Tolerates heavy wet soils and urban conditions. Full sun. Leafs out very late.

**Problems:** ash male flower gall, ash plantbug, leafhopper, anthracnose, ash yellows, ash decline. All of the ash species native to North America are susceptible to the Emerald Ash Borer, an insect introduced from China. This insect has become established in southern Michigan, and is now spreading into Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. This exotic insect has devastated the ash populations in these areas. If you live near the infested areas where the insect is likely to invade in the next few years, restraint should be exercised when considering planting ash trees. More information on this insect can be found at the USDA Forest Service web site: [www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info).

**Cultivars:** Autumn Purple ('Junginger') - A seedless selection with an exceptionally uniform rounded crown and excellent long lasting fall color that is a deep purple on younger plants, becoming orange-purple with age.  
'Skyline' - Ascending branching gives this cultivar an oval crown. The orange-red fall color is not as vibrant as Autumn Purple.

**Related species:** Green Ash (*F. pennsylvanica*)



Fall color



Autumn Purple (fall)  
'Junginger'



'Skyline'

**Credits:** Photos from: [www.midwestlandscapeplants.org](http://www.midwestlandscapeplants.org) and various other .edu websites unless noted. Text from: "Manual of Woody Landscape Plants" by Michael Dirr; "Tree Identification Characteristics (abridged)" from the University of Illinois Extension; [www.midwestlandscapeplants.org](http://www.midwestlandscapeplants.org); and misc. other sources. This publication may not be sold except to cover the cost of reproduction when used as part of an educational program of the University of Wisconsin-Extension.