



West Virginia Division of Forestry  
www.wvforestry.com  
Earl Ray Tomblin, Governor  
Randy Dye, Director/State Forester

**Corrected version: Information on largest shagbark hickory had the wrong height. Please use this version.**

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### **Shagbark hickory one of West Virginia's most distinctive trees**

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – The shagbark hickory may get its name from loose bark, but don't let that fool you: This tree is a tough one.

One of the most distinctive of all the hickories, its lumber is heavy and hard. It's often used in tools that require strength, including axles, axe handles, ploughs and skis.

This tree has an ashy gray bark similar to birch trees except its bark separates into long strips, which give the trunk the shaggy look that is easy to recognize. But that's only the case in mature shagbark hickories — young trees have smooth bark. Shagbark hickory trees provide excellent fall foliage color. In autumn their leaves turn a golden hue that's richer than the yellows displayed by the maples. The shaggy bark can provide interesting context in a landscape long after its leaves are gone.

The nuts from a shagbark hickory are edible with a sweet flavor, and are a popular food among people and squirrels alike. The nuts can be used as a good substitute for pecans in baking.

One of the largest recorded shagbark hickories in West Virginia is near Grassy Meadows in Summers County. The tree is 94 feet tall and measures 83 inches in circumference at breast height.

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Regional Offices  
Farmington 304-825-6983  
Beckley 304-256-6775  
Milton 304-743-6186



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Bare root shagbark hickory tree seedlings are available for purchase from Clements State Tree Nursery in West Columbia, W.Va. Clements, the only state-operated forest tree nursery in West Virginia, sells bundles of 25 seedlings for just \$25 per bundle. Buy extra bundles to share with your neighbors, family and friends.

For a complete catalog of seedlings for sale at Clements State Tree Nursery, visit [www.wvcommerce.org/resources/forestry/treenursery.aspx](http://www.wvcommerce.org/resources/forestry/treenursery.aspx) or call the nursery at 304-675-1820.

For more information about the Division of Forestry, visit [www.wvforestry.com](http://www.wvforestry.com).

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