

Black Walnut

Juglans nigra

Black Walnut is one of the most desired, yet rarest, native hardwoods in the United States. Black Walnut is treasured for its dark brown wood that can be used for furniture, gunstocks, and veneers. In the summer, you can recognize it by its dark green leaves with 5-23 pairs of leaflets with a smaller terminal leaflet. In the fall, the leaves turn yellow. Above all, the Black Walnut is distinguished by its tasty edible seeds. Inside the green, citrus-spicy smelling husk of the fruit, there is the hearty, nutrient-dense walnut. A word of caution when processing, the husks stain your hands.

Height: 50' to 60', in optimal soil and light conditions, trees may grow to over 100'.

In open sites, black walnut grows straight and lacks branches for half its height.

Planting environment:

Soil composition: Prefers loamy alkaline soils

Soil moisture: Prefers moist, rich soils with good drainage.

Sunlight: Sunny to part shade (at least 6 hr of sunlight)

Space seedlings 10'-12' apart. Seedlings especially need the sunlight to grow. Plant in sunnier areas for a better chance of becoming established.

Maintenance:

Clear thick brush or vegetation that is taller than the saplings. Consider corrective pruning of forked branches under 2 inches. Do not over-thin as it will damage the tree.

Lifespan: up to 200 years

Top diseases/pests:

1. Thousand Cankers Disease (not yet in MN)
2. Walnut anthracnose

