

Green Ash *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*

White Ash *Fraxinus americana*



Both green ash and white ash are adaptable species often used as street trees because of their elegant, upswept forms. Green and white ash are two of Aitkin's three native ash trees. These two ashes are very similar and are most easily differentiated by how the leaflets are attached to the main stalk: white ash has a long stalk and green has a short stalk. Both green and white ashes have compound 3"-5" leaves, with 7-11 leaflets along a central stem. Seeds are 1"-2" elongated ovals clustered together in bunches. In Aitkin County, green ash is far more common than white ash. Ash wood is durable, light, and resistant to shock, used for furniture, tool handles, and baseball bats. Both green and white ash wood is marketed as white ash.

**Height:** Green ash – 40'–60'; White ash – 50'–90'

Ash is a slow-growing tree; many 5 ft tall trees are 10-15 years old.

**Planting environment:**

*Soil composition:* Rich, loamy soil

*Soil moisture:* Dry to moist soils

*Sunlight:* Intermediate (will grow in mixed sun and shade)

Planting of ash trees is generally not recommended; emerald ash borer, an invasive insect, causes a 99% mortality rate in all three of Aitkin's ash tree species. The emerald ash borer is not yet present in Aitkin County, but has been found in Cloquet in 2022. It may be difficult to find ash seedlings for purchase.

**Maintenance:**

If attempting to regenerate ash trees, consider thinning existing stands of ash by removing 1/4th of the mature trees – this will increase natural seedling survival. Protect regeneration and seedlings from deer browse. Once seedlings are several years old, remove any remaining mature trees while the ground is frozen to encourage seedling growth.

**Top diseases/pests:**

1. Emerald ash borer
2. Deer/rabbit damage

