



BEESON'S
McHenry County
Nursery, Inc.

Native Buzz

June 2009 - Research & Development

www.beesongrows.com/ArchivePage.html

©2009 Beeson's McHenry County Nursery. All Rights Reserved.

Juglans cinerea

Butternut

The Butternut is a fast-growing, medium to large tree with a rounded form. It is known for its edible nuts and high quality wood used for furniture.

Found on hillsides and streambanks in well-drained soils, it grows best in moist soil in full sun. The Butternut will tolerate dry, alkaline soil, but is intolerant of shade.

It has a forked trunk and wide-spreading branches and reaches a height of 60-80 feet.

The light, soft wood works, stains and finishes well, however, the tree is more prized for its sweet nut used in baking.

Some substances on the inner bark of the root were used in medicines, including hepatics, cathartics, laxatives and treatment of skin eruptions.



Fruit:

Light brown nut in a yellow green husk, resembling an egg in size and shape. Matures in late summer.



Bark:

Light gray to light brown bark is divided into deeply furrowed shiny ridges with flat top.



Flowers:

Female: short, greenish-yellow spike near end of twig.

Male: single stem 2.5-5.5in long yellow-green catkins.



Leaves:

15-30in compound leaves with up to 17 oblong, pointed yellowish green leaflets that turn yellow in the fall.