Bitternut hickory - *Carya cordiformis*

The bark of bitternut hickory is normally gray and separates into narrow ridges with narrow fissures. It sometimes resembles the bark of pecan. (Photo by K. Kuers)

Bitternut typically has nine or more leaflets. (Photo by K. Kuers)

Note the ridges along the sutures of this green bitternut fruit. (Photo by D. Mercker)

The husk of bitternut is distinctly thinner than that of mockernut or shagbark. (Photo by S. Baskauf)

Mockernut hickory - *Carya tomentosa*

Note the widely spaced ridges in the bark of mockernut. Bark can resemble black walnut bark somewhat, but is more gray and less brown in color. (Photo by W. Cook)

The fruit of mockernut hickory has a husk that is thicker than that of red or pignut hickory but thinner than that of shagbark hickory. (Photo by S. Baskauf)

Mockernut fruit (left) and shagbark fruit (right). (Photo by D. Mercker)

The undersurface of the mockernut hickory leaf with its dense mat of hairs. (Photo by K. Kuers)
Pignut hickory - *Carya glabra*

Pignut hickory is a large, deciduous tree native to North America. It reaches heights of 20 to 40 meters and lives up to 200 years. Its distinctive bark is dark brown with a smooth, almost silvery appearance. The leaves are compound with 5 to 9 leaflets, and the flowers are small and white, with male and female flowers occurring on different plants.

**Fruit:**
- The fruit of pignut hickory is a burr, which is a small, dry, indehiscent capsule containing one to three seeds. The burrs are brown or black and have a characteristic shreddy texture.

**Uses:**
- The nuts of pignut hickory are gathered in the fall and can be roasted or boiled. They are often used in salads, desserts, or as a snack.
- The wood is light brown and straight-grained, making it suitable for furniture and flooring.

Shagbark hickory - *Carya ovata*

Shagbark hickory is another large, deciduous tree native to North America. It reaches heights of 20 to 30 meters and lives up to 300 years. Its bark is distinctive, peeling in wide, shaggy sections, giving it the name "shagbark." The leaves are compound with 5 to 11 leaflets, and the flowers are small and white, with male and female flowers occurring on different plants.

**Fruit:**
- The fruit of shagbark hickory is a large, oblong nut with a thick, heavy husk. The nut is dark brown and edible, but it is often eaten raw after roasting.

**Uses:**
- The nuts are used in culinary dishes, as well as for animal feed and firewood.
- The wood is hard and strong, making it suitable for furniture, flooring, and other woodworking applications.