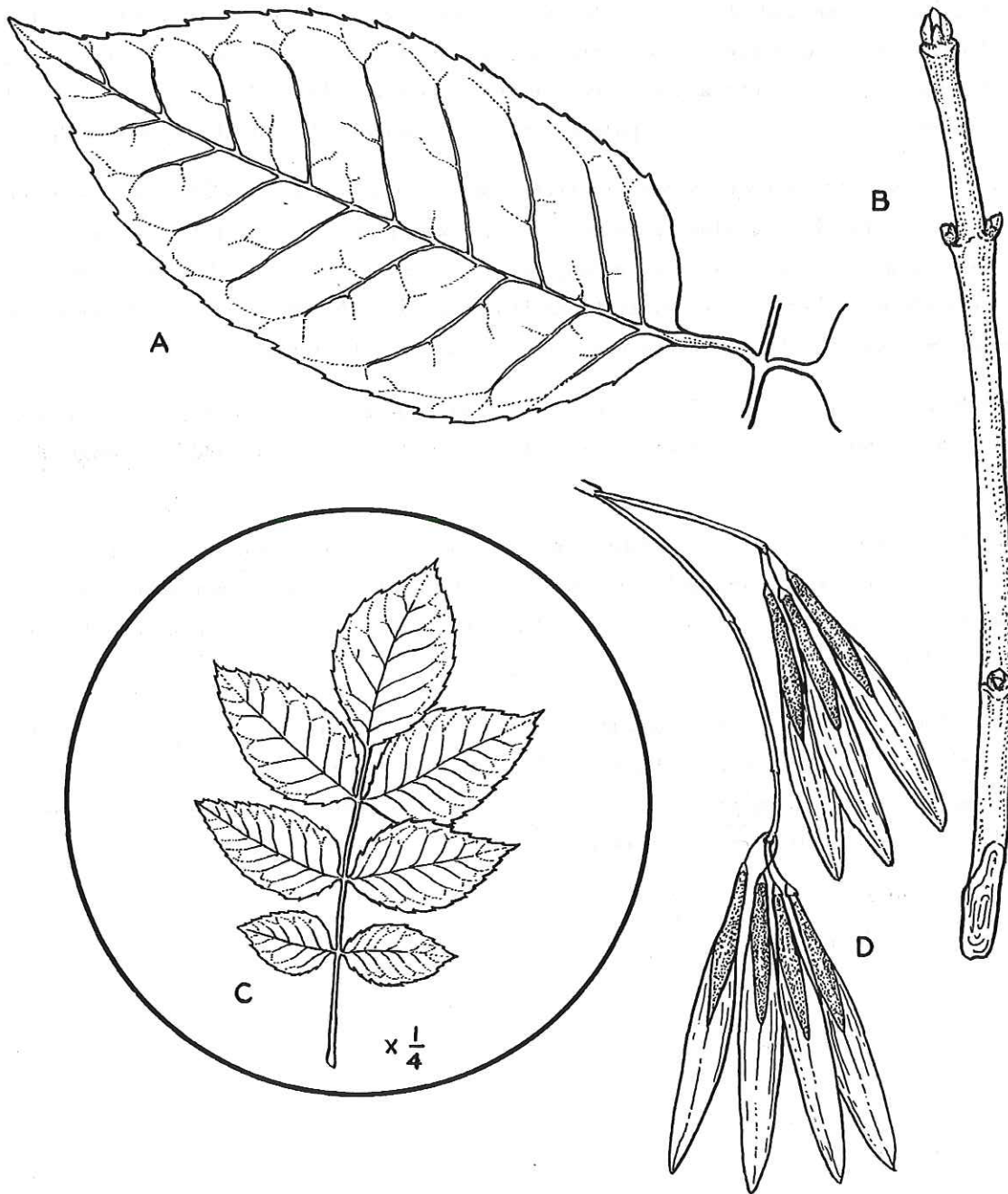


WHITE ASH

(*Fraxinus americana*)



The white or Biltmore ash is common among the northern hardwoods. It grows on fertile, moist soils in woods and along streams and lakes. Occasionally, it is found on dry hillsides.

RANGE: Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, southern Quebec and Ontario to eastern Minnesota thence south to eastern Texas and east to northern Florida.

LEAVES: Opposite, compound, 8 to 12 inches long. The leaves contain 5 to 9 leaflets that are 3 to 5 inches long and about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide. (See figure C.) The leaves are slightly serrated on the margin, acute at the point, and wedge-shaped to rounded at the base. (See figure A.) White ash leaflets are stalked, whereas black ash leaflets are sessile. The leaf is dark green and smooth on top and pale green and sometimes slightly hairy on the bottom.

TWIGS: Opposite, smooth, stout, flattened at the nodes, and grayish-green with large pale lenticels. They have a blunt-pointed, large, brown terminal bud with two smaller buds at the base. Leaf scars are large with many bundle scars arranged in a U shape. (See figure B.)

The grayish-brown bark on the older trees help identify the white ash. It is marked with diamond-shaped furrows. On old trees the bark is often slightly scaly.

FLOWERS: Male and female flowers occur on different trees just before or about the time the leaves come out. The flowers are small, the male in clusters and the female in panicles.

FRUIT: A winged seed, 1 to 2 inches long and about one-fourth of an inch wide. The seed is shaped like a canoe paddle, and the hanging clusters of seed often remain on the tree into the winter. The seeds are easily carried by wind and water. They ripen in mid-August. (See figure D.)

USES: The white ash is an important American timber tree that normally reaches 70 to 80 feet in height and 2 to 3 feet in diameter. It is a fast grower.

The wood is used for handles, furniture, baseball bats, cooperage, wagons, pulpwood, fuel, and lumber. It is regarded as a good ornamental tree.