

North Dakota Tree Selector

Scientific Name: *Fraxinus nigra*

Family: Oleaceae (Olive)

Hardiness: Zone 3

Leaves: Deciduous

Plant Type: Tree

Growth

Rate: Medium

Mature Height: >45'

Longevity: Long

Power Line: No

Ornamental

Flowers: Inconspicuous

Fruit: Tan samara

Fall Color: Yellow

Black Ash

Description

A medium to large tree which grows best in bottomlands and other moist areas. Has a higher moisture requirement than green ash. Slightly more upright and often narrower in appearance than green ash. The largest tree in North Dakota is 66 feet tall with a canopy spread of 34 1/2 feet.

Preferences

Light: Full sun.

Water: Prefers moist, well drained soils.

Soil: Adaptable to many soil types.

Comments

Although this tree is cold-hardy enough for North Dakota, it is not currently recommended due to its susceptibility to emerald ash borer (EAB). As of May 2022, EAB has not been found in North Dakota, though it is found in central Minnesota, Sioux Falls, SD, and in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Black ash naturally occurs in wet sites including low wetlands, cold swamps and periodically inundated river bottoms. It will tolerate wet sites but performs better in moist well drained areas. Black ash has had mixed performance in urban areas in North Dakota, doing poorly when its moisture requirements are not met.

Credits: North Dakota Tree Selector Website, Manual of Woody Landscape Plants 6th edition.

