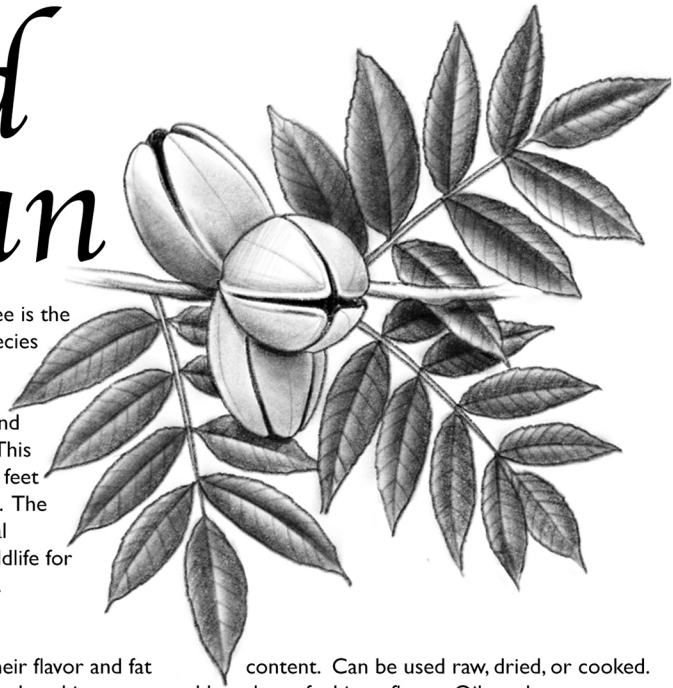


Wild Pecan



Description: The pecan tree is the most valued nut producing species in the hickory tree family and is native to Indiana. The nuts are sweet and delicious and can be eaten raw or cooked. This majestic tree grows up to 100 feet and can live for 300 plus years. The pecan tree possesses medicinal properties and is valued by wildlife for spring pollen, food and shelter.

Primary Uses:

Edible nuts highly prized for their flavor and fat content. Can be used raw, dried, or cooked. The cultivated varieties will produce bigger nuts and have less of a bitter flavor. Oil can be pressed/expelled from the nuts. Dried nuts can be ground into a meal.

Secondary Uses:

Milk can be made from soaked and ground seeds. General insect pollen plant. Nuts are an important high protein food for wildlife. Provides cover for a variety of birds and mammals. Traditional medicinal properties include treatment for ringworm and tuberculosis. Excellent alley cropping species and used in rotational grazing systems to provide mast for livestock. High value lumber potential.

Yield: 70-150 pounds of nuts each year, depending on the variety and weather conditions

Harvesting: When the hull begins to split away from the shell (usually November – December)

Storage: Pecans will keel in shell for a couple of weeks, up to 4 months if stored in a refrigerator and up to a year if stored in the freezer.

Plant Type: Large sized tree ranging from 75-100 feet

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Forest Garden Use: Canopy Layer

Cultivars/Varieties: Many improved varieties available for large nut size and winter hardiness

Pollination: Pecan trees have both male and female flowers, but they do not bloom at the same time, so the tree is not able to pollinate itself. In order to get nut production, you need to plant at least 2 trees that are different varieties. Wind pollinated.

Flowering: April-May

Life Span: 300+ year lifespan

Years to Begin Bearing: 6-10 years from planting

Years of Useful Life: 300+ years

GROWING CONDITIONS FOR THIS PLANT

Light: Prefers full sun

Shade: Must receive at least 6 hours of sunlight each day

Moisture: Grows best on rich, moist, well-drained soils that are not prone to flooding

pH: prefers a slightly acidic soil (5.5 – 6.5)