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American Ash

Fraxinus spp.

Family: Oleaceae

Ash (*Fraxinus* sp.) is composed of 40 to 70 species, with 21 in Central and North America and 50 species in Eurasia. All species look alike microscopically. The name *fraxinus* is the classical Latin name for ash.

*Fraxinus americana**- American White Ash, Biltmore Ash, Biltmore White Ash, Canadian Ash, Cane Ash, Green Ash, Ground Ash, Mountain Ash, Quebec Ash, Red Ash, Smallseed White Ash, **White Ash**, White River Ash, White Southern Ash

Fraxinus anomala-Dwarf Ash, **Singleleaf Ash**

Fraxinus berlandierana-**Berlandier Ash**, Mexican Ash

Fraxinus caroliniana-**Carolina Ash**, Florida Ash, Pop Ash, Swamp Ash, Water Ash

Fraxinus cuspidata-Flowering Ash, **Fragrant Ash**

Fraxinus dipetala-California Flowering Ash, California Shrub Ash, Foothill Ash, Flowering Ash, Fringe-flowering Ash, Mountain Ash, **Two-petal Ash**

Fraxinus gooddingii-**Goodding Ash**

Fraxinus greggii?-Dogleg Ash, **Gregg Ash**, Littleleaf Ash

*Fraxinus latifolia**-Basket Ash, **Oregon Ash**, Water Ash, White Ash

*Fraxinus nigra**-American Black Ash, Basket Ash, **Black Ash**, Brown Ash, Canadian Ash, Hoop Ash, Splinter Ash, Swamp Ash, Water Ash

Fraxinus papillosa-**Chihuahua Ash**

*Fraxinus pennsylvanica**-Bastard Ash, Black Ash, Blue Ash, Brown Ash, Canadian Ash, Darlington Ash, Gray Ash, **Green Ash**, Piss Ash, Pumpkin Ash, Red Ash, Rim Ash, River Ash, Soft Ash, Swamp Ash, Water Ash, White Ash

*Fraxinus profunda**-**Pumpkin Ash**, Red Ash

*Fraxinus quadrangulata**-**Blue Ash**, Virginia Ash

Fraxinus texensis-**Texas Ash**

Fraxinus velutina-Arizona Ash, Desert Ash, Leatherleaf Ash, Modesto Ash, Smooth Ash, Toumey Ash, **Velvet Ash**

Distribution

The north temperate regions of the globe.

The Tree

Ashes are trees or shrubs with large, opposite, pinnately compound leaves, which are shed in the fall. The compound leaves have 2 to 11 leaflets. The flowers can be bisexual or there can be distinct male and female flowers on separate trees. The flowers have no petals and the fruits are dry with a flattened wing.

The Wood

General

The sapwood of ash is light brown, while the heartwood is brown to grayish brown. White ash and Oregon ash have lighter heartwood than the other commercial species. The width of the sapwood is 3 to 6 inches. It is ring porous, with the latewood

being composed of parenchyma which surrounds and unites the latewood pores in tangential bands. It has no characteristic odor or taste.

Working Properties: Ash is straight grained, heavy, hard, strong, stiff and wears smooth with high shock resistance. It machines well and is better than average in nail and screw holding capacity. It glues moderately well. Black, green, Pumpkin and Blue ashes have lower specific gravities and lower strength properties, but are still moderately strong, hard, and stiff compared to other native hardwoods. They also split easier, shrink more, are average in workability and perform less well in service.

Durability: Classed as slightly to non-resistant to heartwood decay.

Preservation: No information available at this time.

Uses: Handle stock, baseball bats, unupholstered furniture, flooring, millwork, hand tools, sporting goods, boxes and crates.

Toxicity: No information available at this time.