

# BLACK WALNUT

*Juglans nigra*

Deciduous. Large tree often 50-75' tall. Black Walnut have a clear straight trunk. The trunk is stout with several main lateral branches forming open, broad crown. They are slow-growing, with flavorful and hard to extract nut meats. They are not grown commercially. Their beautiful wood is in very high demand, and individual trees are harvested for veneer and other applications. The leaves are large, compound, 18" long with 15-23 relatively narrow pointed leaflets, 4" broadest near the base. They are glossy dark green above, hairy underneath, aromatic. The 2" fruit is a rounded, edible, brown nut, enclosed in a green husk, borne singly or in pairs. The nut is rounded, 1-1 1/4", dark, rough with irregular deep grooves and jagged broken ridges. The flowers are small and without petals, clustered in catkins. The twigs are stout, dull orange-brown with large notched leaf scars and relatively small oval buds. The bark of a mature tree is dark gray-brown to blackish, and roughly furrowed in diamond patterns. The young bark and trunks peel in thin long scales. Rarely found in deep woods. Usually found in open deciduous woods or along the edges.

There are four Black Walnut trees at the Charles Baber Cemetery. Two are inside the 16th Street entrance along the fence line and aside of the neighbor's garage to the north. And two are on the hillside at the northern tip of the Woodland Avenue loop. At the time the picture was taken in August, the trees were dropping their fruit. A squirrel was perched on the tree limb eating one of the nuts. Near-by on the top of two memorial markers, the husk remained from shelled nuts.

