

WHITE ASH

Fraxinus Americana

White Ash is the most common of the four ashes found in Pennsylvania. It is a large tree often 80 feet high or more, with a long straight trunk. Ash grows best in rich moist soils. The wood is a valuable hardwood for furniture, handles on agricultural tools, and especially famous as the choice wood for baseball balls. White ash has an opposite bud and twig arrangement with blunt brown buds on the terminal twigs. The leaves are compounded with 5-9 leaflets. The samara (winged seeds) which are found on female trees are usually 1-2" long and 1/4" wide and shaped like a canoe paddle. The leaves turn from yellow to dark maroon in the autumn. The mature bark is gray with diamond furrows. According to European custom, the Ash tree had the power to keep away snakes and serpents. This belief lead mothers to hang their cradles from an Ash tree to protect their babies from harm while they worked in the field . The American Indians used ash as a strong laxative and as tonic after childbirth. A tea made from the inner bark was used to treat stomach disorders and to promote sweating to break a fever. The seeds were considered an aphrodisiac. The Emerald Ash Borer is a growing threat to the Ash in Pennsylvania, which has been killing Ash trees across the Midwest into the Eastern United States. This exotic pest has not been found in Schuylkill County, but has been observed in some of the surrounding counties.



There is only one White Ash tree in the cemetery. It is located on the lower hillside of Trinity Avenue and is southwest of the Atkin's mausoleum.

