

NUTMEG HICKORY

Carya myristicaeformis (Michx. f.) Nutt.

OTHER COMMON NAMES: Bitter water hickory, Swamp hickory, Pecan (lumber).

FORM: 80-100 feet high, with tall straight trunk, often 2 feet in diameter; stout and somewhat spreading branches forming a comparatively open crown.

BARK: 1/2-3/4 inch thick, dark brown tinged with red, broken irregularly into small thin appressed scales.

TWIGS: Slender, coated at first with lustrous golden or brown scales, ultimately reddish-brown with small scattered lenticels.

LEAVES: 7-14 inches long, alternate, compound with 7-9, occasionally 5, ovate-lanceolate to broadly ovate-acute leaflets, equally or sometimes unequally cuneate or rounded at the narrow base, dark yellow-green, smooth above, paler, glabrous or puberulous below.

FLOWERS: Monoecious; staminate in aments 3-4 inches long, coated with dark brown scurfy pubescence; pistillate oblong, narrowed at the ends, slightly 4-angled, covered with thick brown scurfy pubescence.

FRUIT: Usually solitary, ellipsoidal or slightly obovoid, 4-ridged to the base, ridges broad and thick, about 1 1/2 inch long; nut ellipsoidal or ovoid, 1 inch long, rounded and apiculate at both ends, smooth, dark reddish-brown, marked by longitudinal broken bands of spots covering the entire surface at the ends; kernel small, sweet.

WINTER BUDS: Covered with thick brown scurfy pubescence; terminal bud 1/8-1/4 inch long, ovoid, obtuse; lateral buds much smaller, acute, slightly flattened.

WOOD: Hard, very strong, tough, close-grained, light brown, with 80-90 layers of annual growth.

USES:

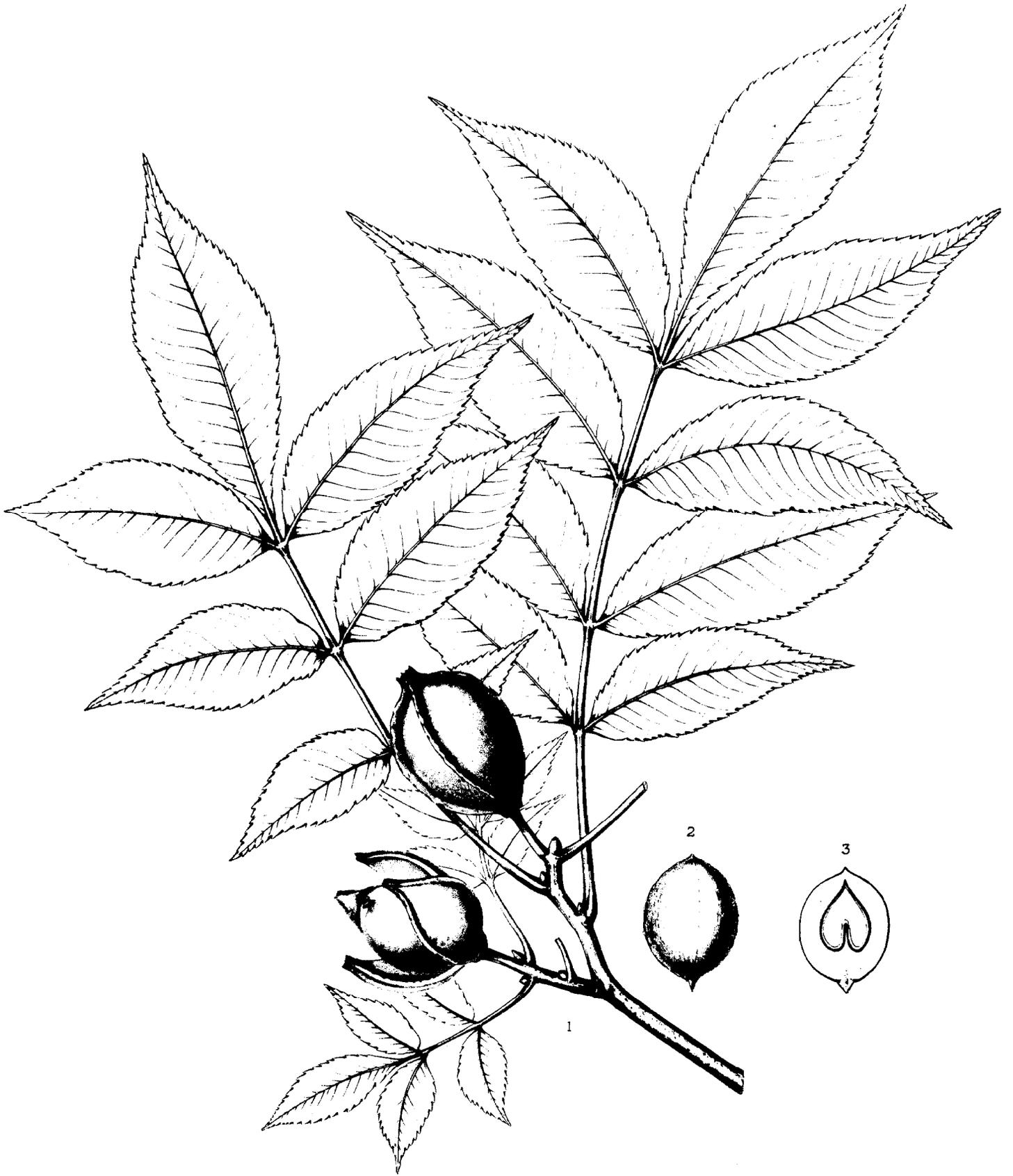
HABITAT: Banks of rivers and swamps and rich moist soil; rarely on high dry ground.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS: Leaflets dark green above, nearly glabrous and silvery-white below; winter buds covered with thick brown scurfy pubescence; fruit usually ellipsoidal, 4-ridged with broad thick ridges; nut usually ellipsoidal, apiculate at the ends, marked by longitudinal broken bands of small gray spots.

DISTRIBUTION IN ALABAMA: Seems to be mainly in the Black Belt, reported from Sumter, Perry, and Dallas Counties.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE

1. A fruiting branch
2. A nut
3. Vertical section of a nut



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