



# Dwarf hackberry

*Celtis tenuifolia* Nutt.

The dwarf hackberry grows mostly in dry, poor soil over limestone in nature, but is more flexible in cultivation. This is a very small tree; an exceptionally large specimen might only be 25 feet tall. The leaves are generally smaller, with fewer teeth, than those of the northern hackberry, *Celtis*

*occidentalis*. The berries of the dwarf hackberry are go through interesting color phases: first green, then light orange, then dark red, then a dark purplish-brown. The thin meat of the berries, between the skin and the large seed, is almost pure sugar, tasting similar to dates. This species is immune to the Dutch Elm Disease that affects elms. It is also highly resistant to the disfiguring leaf galls that plague the northern hackberry.

## Cultivation

Normal winter stratification is all that is necessary. This can easily be accomplished by planting the seed in fall or early winter, preferably under two or more inches of humus. Alternatively, this can be accomplished by embedding the acorns in a planting mix and storing in the freezer for ten days, then the refrigerator for another sixty to ninety days.

## Conservation Seed

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