

Butternut

Juglans cinerea



Status: **Endangered**



Photo: NRCan

Description:

- ◆ Deciduous medium-sized tree with a broad spreading irregularly shaped crown; grows up to 30 m in height and 90 cm in diameter
- ◆ Leaves are pinnately compound with 11-17 leaflets between 9 to 15 cm long that are opposite and almost stalkless
- ◆ Leaves are yellowish-green, densely hairy on the underside; twigs are stout, hairy, and yellowish orange
- ◆ Bark is grey and smooth becoming separated by narrow, dark fissures into wide, irregular, flat-topped, intersecting ridges in older trees
- ◆ Produces small purplish flowers in the spring
- ◆ Fruit is a single-seeded edible nut with a dense layer of short sticky hairs covering the greenish husk

Biology:

- ◆ Roots produce a chemical that will kill some nearby plants
- ◆ Intolerant to shade
- ◆ Wind-pollinated
- ◆ Lives up to 75 years
- ◆ Fruit develops in Sept.; remains on the tree until dispersed and buried by rodents
- ◆ Member of the Walnut family

Habitat:

- ◆ Prefers rich moist soil in fields, forest edges and stream banks; often with maples
- ◆ Found along the edge of the Precambrian Shield; many of the trees here were planted
- ◆ Found as single trees or small groups in deciduous and mixed forests

Threats:

- ◆ Hybridization with non-native species
- ◆ Fungal disease called Butternut Canker
- ◆ Deforestation

Species at Risk
STEWARDS' GUIDE SERIES

Butternut

Juglans cinerea

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Ontario's *Endangered Species Act*

Butternut on Your Property?

Here's What You Can Do:

◆ Manage your woodlot for the protection and retention of Butternut.

- ◆ Have a qualified person develop a harvest prescription that considers wildlife habitat, forest health, stand improvement strategies, and the protection of biological diversity. Get advice before removing any naturally occurring Butternuts on your property.
- ◆ A good silvicultural system for the retention of Butternut is the group selection method, where groups of trees are removed to produce larger openings in the canopy. The optimum size of opening for Butternut regeneration has a diameter roughly equal to the height of the stand.
- ◆ As pollination between Butternuts will likely occur up to, but not exceeding, a distance of around 100 meters, attempts should be made to leave at least 10 butternut trees per hectare.

◆ Support sustainable forestry practices when you purchase wood products. Look for the FSC logo.

- ◆ **See a Butternut?** Submit your sighting to the Natural Heritage Information Centre at nhic.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/nhic/species/species_report.cfm. Photographs with specific locations or mapping coordinates are always helpful. You can also report sightings to the Forest Gene Conservation Association at www.fgca.net.

- ◆ **Contact the Ministry of Natural Resources.** If you find a Butternut on your property, you may be eligible for stewardship programs that support the protection and recovery of species at risk and their habitats. Contact the MNR for more information.

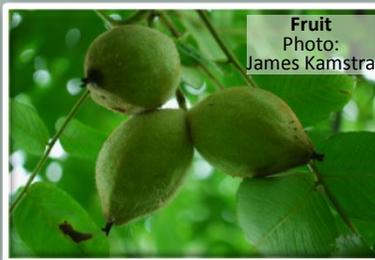
- ◆ **Learn More.** Check out the Species at Risk section on the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources website at www.mnr.gov.on.ca.



Photo: NRCan



Bark
Photo:
James Kamstra



Fruit
Photo:
James Kamstra



Leaves & Flowers
Photo: James Kamstra

Ontario's *Endangered Species Act, 2007* came into force on June 30, 2008, making Ontario a North American leader in the protection of species at risk and their habitats.

Compared to Ontario's previous Act, written in 1971, the new ESA 2007 provides:

- ◆ Science-based assessment of species' status
- ◆ Automatic protection of a species and its habitat once it's listed as endangered or threatened
- ◆ Broader protection for species at risk and their habitats
- ◆ Greater support for volunteer stewardship efforts of private landowners, resource users, and conservation organizations
- ◆ A commitment to recovery of species through recovery planning
- ◆ Greater accountability, including government reporting requirements

Ontario is home to more than 30,000 species, most of which have stable populations.

However, more than 180 species in Ontario, 34 of which are found in Parry Sound-Muskoka, are currently considered "at risk" because of threats like:

- ◆ Habitat loss
- ◆ Global changes in insect populations
- ◆ Pollution
- ◆ Invasive species
- ◆ Climate change
- ◆ Over-harvesting
- ◆ Road mortality



Learn more about Species at Risk on the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources website at www.mnr.gov.on.ca.