

Juglandaceae walnut family

Of the approximately 60 species (7–8 genera) worldwide, only one has made its way to Nova Scotia as an infrequent escape. These are mostly trees which bear alternate, pinnately compound leaves. The unisexual flowers are borne in separate catkins. Male catkins occur on the previous year's growth or at the base of the current season's growth. They are long and drooping, the flowers solitary in catkin bracts, with two to many stamens. Female flowers occur in short, few-flowered catkins at the tip of the current season's growth. Ovary is inferior; styles number two. Fruit is a nut with a woody or fibrous husk.

Juglans L.

Six species occur in North America. These trees have chambered pith and odd-pinnate, alternate, deciduous leaves. Leaflets number 9–17, nearly sessile. Male catkins are densely flowered and pendulous. The pistillate catkins are short and few-flowered. Both types of catkins can be found on the same tree. Fruits have indehiscent husks surrounding the edible nuts.

Juglans cinerea L.

Butternut, noyer cendré



Photo by Sean Blaney



Photo by David Mazerolle

A tree growing to 30 m the leaf scars have a line of dense hairs along the upper edges. Leaflets number 11–17, rugose and oblong-lanceolate, pubescent with stellate hairs. Fruit is ellipsoid, 4–8 cm, the nut longer than thick and rough.

Flowers in the spring.

Rich floodplains, moist fields.

Reported from near the Meander River in Hants Co. and South of Kentville, Kings Co.

Ranges from MB to NB and south to AR, MI, AL and GA. A recently discovered introduction to Nova Scotia.