

***Celtis laevigata* Willd.**

Common Name	Sugar Hackberry, Sugarberry
Botanical Name	<i>Celtis laevigata</i>
Family	Ulmaceae
Form	Tree
Growth Habit	A deciduous tree that grows from 60'-90' tall and with a diameter of about 1 ½', having a loose crown and spreading branches.
Bark	Light gray and smooth in texture, sometimes having irregular, wart-like protrusions.
Leaves	Leaves have a droopy appearance and are present alternately on stems having a dark green color and turning light yellow in the fall. They are from 2"-4" long and ½"-2" wide, pointed at the ends, and with edges that are usually smooth, although they may be lightly and irregularly toothed at times. They are sometimes curved with the leaf width around the center vein being uneven.
Flowers	Small, greenish-white flowers with no petals that are about 1/8" across and appear singly or in small clusters from April-May. Male and female flowers appear separately on the same tree.
Fruit	An orangish-red berry-like fruit that is about ¼" in diameter and becomes purplish-black at maturity. Present from September-October.
Soil conditions	Found in clayey soils that retain moisture.
Water	Adapted to consistently moist conditions.
Light Requirement	Sun
Native Growth Zone	8-10
Propagation	Seed, cuttings
Habitat	Found frequently in floodplain forests throughout the state except in the Florida Keys.
Remarks	The Sugar Hackberry makes a good urban tree for its strength and ability to tolerate compacted soils. It has a fairly good wind tolerance as well. Its fruit attracts birds and other wildlife species.

Works Consulted