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The leaves are both opposite (growing on opposite sides of the twig), and pinnately compound (having leaflets) between 8-12 inches long with usually 7 leaflets, nearly untoothed, 2-5 inches each. Unlike the white ash the leaflets are green or yellow-green on both sides.

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Fraxinus pennsylvanica

Green Ash

Fraxinus pennsylvanica

Green Ash

The fruit is a cluster of keys (seeds with wings) in the shape of canoe paddles, with the seed at the handle. Note that the wing extends to the base of the seed.

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The ends of the branches seem always to turn gracefully upwards. Note that the branches of the Green Ash are generally shorter and stubbier than the more graceful White Ash.

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Fraxinus pennsylvanica

Green Ash

Fraxinus pennsylvanica

Green Ash

The ashes are the only group of trees that have opposite compound leaves with 5 or more leaflets. The Green Ash is a fast growing survivor even in urban areas, and consequently many varieties (cultivars) exist. Unfortunately Ashes in general are quite susceptible to both disease and infestation.

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