

The Colonial Woodsmyth

Common Name: Walnut

Botanical Name: *Juglans nigra*



Other Common Names: American black walnut, American walnut, Black walnut, Eastern black walnut, Nogal, Nogal blanco, Nogal silvestre, Nuez meca, Tocte, Tropical walnut, Walnut



Common Uses: Bedroom suites, Cabinetmaking, Caskets, Decorative veneer, Desks, Fixtures, Furniture, Gunstocks, Living-room suites, Paneling, Specialty items, Tables, Turnery, Bobbins, Building materials, Chairs, Chests, Concealed parts (Furniture), Dining-room furniture, Dowell pins, Dowells, Drawer sides, Figured veneer, Fine furniture, Floor lamps, Furniture components, Furniture squares or stock, Hatracks, Interior construction, Kitchen cabinets, Office furniture, Picker sticks, Radio, stereo, TV cabinets, Rifle stock, Rustic furniture, Shade rollers, Shuttles, Spindles, Spools, Sporting Goods, Stencil & chisel blocks, Stools, Sucker rods, Umbrella handles, Utility furniture, Veneer, Wainscotting, Wardrobes

Region: North America

Country: Canada, United States

Distribution: Black walnut is reported to be distributed in Ontario and Quebec in Canada. Its growth range in the United States is reported to include Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, North Carolina, North Dakota, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Great Smoky Mountain National Park, Connecticut, Iowa, Illinois, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Vermont, Wisconsin, West Virginia, and Wyoming. The tree prefers moist, well-drained soils, particularly along streams, and is usually found scattered in mixed forests.

Tree Data: The mature tree is described as rather large. It is reported to attain a height of 70 to 90 feet (21 to 27 m), with a trunk diameter of 24 to 48 inches (60 to 120 cm). Boles are reported to be often clear of branches to 50 to 60 feet (15 to 18 m).

Sapwood Color: The sapwood is described as whitish to yellowish brown. It is a common practice to steam or stain the sapwood to match its color with that of the heartwood.

Heartwood Color: The color of the heartwood varies from light grayish brown to deep chocolate brown to an almost black purplish brown. The appearance of the wood is usually described as warm and inviting.

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Grain: The grain is slightly open and usually straight, but may be wavy or irregular. Pore arrangement is reported to be similar to that in the Hickories (*Carya*) and Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*), but the pores are smaller. The wood is famous for its wavy, curly and mottled figures which are obtained from burls, crotches and stumpwood.

Texture: Texture is usually coarse, but uniform.

Luster: Wood surfaces are generally dull, but the wood is reported to develop a lustrous patina after many years in use.

