## **Learning about Pumpkin Ash** Fraxinus profunda

The native pumpkin ash, which is also called red ash, is a deciduous native tree in the olive family. It is a large tree that is found in swamps and bottomland forests, where it develops a swollen or pumpkinshaped bottom.

Characteristics. This native ash tree reproduces best on bare, moist soils. While it can grow in shade, it grows more rapidly in full sun. This tree can grow to a height of 130 feet.

Fruit. Pumpkin ash trees are either male or female. Small flowers form in April and May before the leaves come out in the spring. This species of ash has the largest seed of native ashes, which averages 6 to 7 cm in length and 9 mm wide. The seed is a winged, single-seeded samara and is found on the female trees in clusters. Seeds mature in the late summer and fall in October through December. Seeds are mostly dispersed by wind and water.

Geographic Range. This native tree is found along the margins of swamps and river bottoms from Maryland through northern Florida and west to Louisiana.

## Additional Information.

- The seeds are eaten by birds (such as wood duck) and white-tailed deer browse on its branches and
- Pumpkin ash has heavy, strong wood, which makes it ideal for farm tools.



Harms, W.R. (n.d.) Fraxinus profunda (Bush).

http://www.na.fs.fed.us/pubs/silvics\_manual/volume\_2/fraxinus/profund

Acosta, A. (2003) Fraxinus profunda (Bush). Louisiana Plant Identification and Interactive Virtual Tours. [photo credits]

http://www.rnr.lsu.edu/plantid/species/pumpkinash/pumpkinash.htm





