

Black Walnut *(Juglans nigra)*

Black Walnut grows with a rounded crown to about 70 feet (can reach 100 to 150 feet in the woods) and spreads 60 to 80 feet when open grown.

Best growth occurs in a sunny open location and a moist rich soil. The tree grows rapidly when young but slows down with age. The tree is probably best used in a park, campus or other open space area.

While highly valued as a lumber tree it may not make the best yard tree. The nuts are edible but are a nuisance to clean up and leaves often fall prematurely from some type of leaf disease. A different walnut tree species (*Juglans regia*) is the tree that brings us the edible walnut.

Black Walnut roots release a chemical which inhibits growth of some plants beneath the tree, including turfgrass. Plants such as tomato and evergreens are quite sensitive.

A yellow dye is made from the fruit husks. The seed is used in candy-making, cleaning abrasives and explosives.

If you have a place on your property for this tree, plant the tree so it will receive an adequate supply of water. It is not drought tolerant, often dropping leaves in dry spells and is poorly adapted for urban soils.

Information Source:

Gilman, E. F. and Watson, D.G. (1993). *Juglans nigra: Black Walnut*. University of Florida. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/st320>

Photos by: Alicia Lamborn

