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Ash, Arizona

Leaf Color Green

Fall Color Yellow

This plant has attractive fall colors.

Leaf Identification

Type: Oddly pinnately compound

Arrangement: Opposite

Venations: Pinnate

Margins: Serrate

Shapes: Elliptic and lanceolate

Length: Less than 2in./5cm

Fruit Color Green and tan

The fruit is dry and elongated.

Environment

This plant tolerates drought and flooding.

This plant will grow in very dry to wet or submerged soil.

Suitable soil is well-drained/loamy, sandy or clay.

The pH preference is an acidic to alkaline (less than 6.8 to more than 7.7) soil.

Landscape Uses

Attributes and Features

- Inconspicuous blooms
- Persistent fruit
- Attractive fruit
- Fruit can be a litter problem
- Ozone tolerant

Fraxinus velutina

Arizona Ash, Modesto Ash, Velvet Ash

Oleaceae (Olive)

Nomenclature: Royal Hort. Society

Type Tree, woody plant

Hardy range 7A to 10B

Height 25' to 50' / 7.60m to 15.20m

Spread 50' to 70' / 15.20m to 21.40m

Growth rate Fast

Form Rounded

Exposure Full sun

Persistence Deciduous

Bloom Color Green

Native Habitat

North America

Native to the following North American locales: Arizona, California, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah

Crown, Branch and Twig

This plant is asymmetrical with a medium texture and has a moderately dense crown.

This plant's bark is not showy.

Branches or twigs are of medium thickness, have a thick and fibrous surface.

Branches break easily.

This plant typically grows with one trunk.

This plant has low flammability. National champion is 76 x 88 feet in Arizona.

Culture Notes

Arizona Ash is very susceptible to borers and its use should be tempered by this fact. It should be grown in full sun and will tolerate both alkaline and rocky soils. Native habitat includes washes and stream banks. It is tolerant of wet soil and has been extensively used along streets in areas with poor drainage. Roots often grow close to the soil surface causing a nuisance by breaking sidewalks and curbs.

The tree has been widely grown in California, Texas, and in drier parts of the central and western U.S. The tree has been



traditionally difficult to maintain due to the development of many upright trunks originating from the same position on the main trunk. This condition has led to the creation of weak trees which often break apart at the base of the multiple trunks. Trees often have a short life, perhaps lasting 40 to 50 years. Tree is messy and is always dropping something. Ash are among those susceptible to summer branch drop according to surveys in California. Summer branch drop is a phenomena resulting in failure and breakage of large diameter branches typically on calm summer days.

The variety *glabra* is fruitless and is a cleaner tree. 'Fan West', Modesto', Stribling', 'Sunbelt' and 'Von Ormy' are male cultivars that produce abundant pollen. Trees are very susceptible to damage from ice loads. Wood is considered ring porous.

Foliage summer nitrogen content on established trees in irrigated landscapes in California ranged from 1.8-2.7 percent.

Maintain adequate mulch area

Clear all turf away from beneath the branches and mulch to the drip line, especially on young trees, to reduce competition with turf and weeds. This will allow roots to become well established and keep plants healthier. Prune the tree so trunks and branches will not rub each other. Remove some secondary branches on main branches with included bark. This reduces the likelihood of the main branch splitting from the tree later when it has grown to become an important part of the landscape. Locate the tree properly, taking into account the ultimate size, since the tree looks best if it is not pruned to control size. The tree can enhance any landscape with its delightful spring flush of foliage. It can be the centerpiece of your landscape if properly located.

Pests, Diseases and Damaging Agents

Pests: Very susceptible to borers. Aphids are often found infesting foliage.

Diseases: Susceptible to verticillium wilt. Wet winters and springs encourage anthracnose which can cause severe defoliation.

This genus is sensitive to fluoride air pollution, sources of which include glass and brick manufacturing plants and other facilities that heat or treat with acid materials containing fluoride. Symptoms due to fluoride injury are more prominent on the side of the plant facing the pollution source. In deciduous plants, symptoms include leaf browning along the margins of the leaves. A dark brownish band may appear along the boundary between healthy green tissue and the affected brown tissue. Eventually, the entire leaf may turn brown. In conifers, the tips of the current year's needles turn reddish brown. Older needles are typically unaffected. If you suspect fluoride has injured this plant, look in the neighborhood for gladiolus plants. They serve as indicator plants for fluoride air pollution damage because they are very sensitive to it. Other sensitive plants include ash, maple, oak, white pine, poplar, and redbud. Plants that resist injury include birch, flowering cherry, dogwood, hawthorn, American linden, juniper, pear, spirea and sweet gum.

Special Notes

This plant has aggressive roots.

