

Scientific name: *Ailanthus altissima*

Common name: Tree of Heaven, Stinking Sumac, Paradise tree

Family: *Simaroubaceae*

Native Range: Taiwan and China, hardy to USDA Zone 4

Habit: Grows between 60ft-90ft and can grow around 25ft in a single year.

Bark is smooth and tan to gray in early growth, with age the bark will become rugged with heart shaped leaf scars. The leaves are pinnately compound and range from 1-3ft in length with 10 to 41 leaflets with teeth at the base.

Pictured below are the seeds and leaflet form.



Juglans nigra

Black Walnut

The leaflets are regularly spaced serrated margins all the way around and are generally shorter. It is a larger mature tree and produces large spherical fruit.



Rhus glabra

Smooth Sumac

Serrated leaf margins all the way around the leaflet, often less than 31 leaflets. Sumacs often have lenticels or gas exchange pores along the bark. Conical fruit in the fall that will hang around until winter.



Toxicodendron vernicifluum or
Rhus verniciflua

Varnish Tree

Related to poison ivy, extremely irritating on the skin. Ovate leaflets and no serration, anywhere from 7-19 in quantity.

Flowers around July and seeds from September to November.



Gymnocladus dioicus

Kentucky Coffee Tree

Bark in the winter can look like *Ailanthus altissima*, and branch angles are narrow similar to *A. altissima*. With leaves, it's easier to distinguish as it has many more leaflets branching off the trunk. As a member of the *Fabaceae* family it's seed pods look like peas.



Decaisnea fargesii

Dead Man's fingers or Blue Sausage Tree/Fruit

Around 15-25ft tall at maturity, up to 25 rounded leaflets

Very distinguishable by its fruit a yellow-green to dark blue pod containing shiny black seeds.

