

MORACEAE – MULBERRY FAMILY

Plant: mostly trees and shrubs, rarely herbs with milky juice

Stem: may have milky sap

Root:

Leaves: deciduous or evergreen; simple, alternate (rarely opposite or whorled), sometimes toothed or lobed, often in 2 rows, pinnately or palmately veined; with stipules though falling early

Flowers: imperfect (monoecious or dioecious); tiny, often greenish, in dense heads or spikes; 2-6, often 4 sepals, no corolla; stamens mostly same number as sepals: ovary superior or inferior with 1-2 carpels, 1-2 styles

Fruit: multiple dense drupe (berry-like) and fleshy, some edible, or dried capsule

Other: mostly tropical or subtropical; locally various mulberries and osage orange; Dicotyledons Group

Genera: 40+ genera; locally *Broussonetia* (paper-mulberry), *Maclura* (osage-orange), *Morus* (mulberry)

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Mulberry Weed; *Fatoua villosa* (Thunb.) Nakai (Introduced)

Osage-Orange; *Maclura pomifera* (Raf.) Schneid.

White Mulberry; *Morus alba* L. (Introduced)

Red Mulberry; *Morus rubra* L. var. *rubra*

Mulberry Weed

Fatoua villosa (Thunb.) Nakai (Introduced)

Moraceae (Mulberry Family)

Near Heber Springs, Cleburne County, Arkansas

Notes: annual, monoecious; staminate and pistillate flowers in clusters on stalks on both sides of the leaf axils; leaves alternate, somewhat triangular to generally ovate, three veined, truncated to somewhat cordate at base, sharp tip, edges with blunt teeth; fruit an achene; stem finely hairy, slightly armed (others evidently not armed); summer to fall

[V Max Brown, 2017]



Osage-Orange [Bois D'arc; Hedge Apple]

Maclura pomifera (Raf.) Schneid.

Moraceae (Mulberry Family)

Maumee River Metroparks, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: tree; flowers small, greenish (dioecious); leaves alternate, widest below middle, tapering to sharp tip, shiny green above, paler below; bark furrowed, brownish with orange showing through; twigs hairy or not, with stout spines, milky sap; large green to yellowish fruit; root bark orange; spring to early summer

[V Max Brown, 2005]



White Mulberry

Morus alba L. (Introduced)

Moraceae (Mulberry Family)

Close Memorial Park, Greene County, Missouri

Notes: shrub to medium tree; flowers small, green-yellow, on catkins; leaves ovate but variable from simple to 3-5 lobed, serrate, glossy green above, paler and glabrous beneath, 1-4 in wide and 2-6 in long; bark color variable but usually light to dark brown; twigs with pores common, milky sap; fruit white to red to purple; spring

[V Max Brown, 2015]



Red Mulberry

Morus rubra L. var. *rubra*

Moraceae (Mulberry Family)

University of Toledo, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: shrub to medium tree; flowers small, green-yellow, on catkins; leaves ovate but variable from simple to 3-5 lobed, serrate, glossy green above, softly hairy beneath (especially on veins) but variable, 3-5 in wide and 4-8 in long; bark color variable but often tinted orange; twigs with pores common, milky sap; bud scales with dark margins; fruit red turning purple-black; spring

[V Max Brown, 2005]

