

Netleaf Hackberry (*Celtis reticulata*)

The Netleaf Hackberry is a small tree or shrub that can grow up to 30 feet tall and just nearly as wide. Found across the western US and northern Mexico, it commonly grows near water sources, such as streams, washes, as well as in desert grassland and woodland zones. Its dark green leaves have a characteristically lopsided shape, with one side of the leaf connected to the stem noticeable larger than the other. Small green flowers typically bloom off the Hackberry in March and April, and small, orange/red, sweet and edible 'cherries' (or drupes) also grow. The fruits attract many species of birds and they contain one seed. The tree grows up to 30 feet tall and just as wide, and is most often found below 7500 feet elevation.

Some fun facts:

- Perform well in desert heat, drought and strong winds when properly established
- Have deep roots that will not crack any nearby pavement
- Provide windbreaks and are great for landscaping
- Functions well as a habitat and food for a variety of wildlife

