



## BLACK WALNUT *Juglans nigra* L.

**B**lack walnut is not native to Maine, but is planted occasionally as an ornamental tree. In forested situations in its native range, it can grow to be up to 100 feet tall with a long straight trunk free of branches. In Maine, it is usually planted in the open and exhibits an open-grown form with wide-spreading branches. Black walnut's natural range extends over a large portion of the eastern United States from western Vermont and Massachusetts to southeastern South Dakota, south into Texas and the Florida panhandle.

The **bark** is brown, with furrowed ridges forming a diamond pattern. If the bark is cut with a knife, the cut surface will be dark brown. The leaves are alternate, pinnately compound 12–24 inches long with 10–24 leaflets; a terminal leaflet is often lacking. The **fruit** is round and composed of a nut enclosed in a thick green husk. The **twigs** are stout, light brown, with a chambered pith. The **buds** are large and tan.

The **wood** is so valuable that, in



some parts of the country, trees have been stolen in the dead of night from front lawns and city parks. It is a rich, dark brown and takes a good polish, making it valuable for furniture, cabinets and gunstocks. Much of the wood harvested today is turned for veneer.

The **nuts** are edible, but must be gathered before the animals harvest them all. Ground nut shells have had numerous uses, including as a carrying agent for insecticidal dusts and for cleaning aircraft engine parts; while the fruit husks have been used to make fabric dye.

### MAINE REGISTER OF BIG TREES 2008

**Black Walnut**

**Circumference:** 158"

**Height:** 100'

**Crown Spread:** 87'

**Location:** Limerick

