

# NYBG

## What is Fraxinus?

*Fraxinus* is the scientific name for a genus of trees in the Olive and Lilac family, popularly known as Ash trees. About 45 species occur in Europe, North America and Asia. American White Ash wood is prized for its strength and flexibility and is the preferred wood for baseball bats and other sporting equipment. For thousands of years, Native Americans have made baskets from Black Ash, a wetland species of northern forests. Five Ash species in the United States are critically endangered due to the non-native Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Three of these grow wild in New York City. The Black Ash—also critically endangered—occurs just outside the City in Westchester and Nassau counties. New York City's Ash trees share common features (pictured below) such as diamond-patterned bark, leaves with 5–13 leaflets, and winged fruit with a single seed. Visit the EcoFlora website at [www.nybg.org/ecocoquest](http://www.nybg.org/ecocoquest) for information on how you can help document and conserve Ash trees in New York City.

