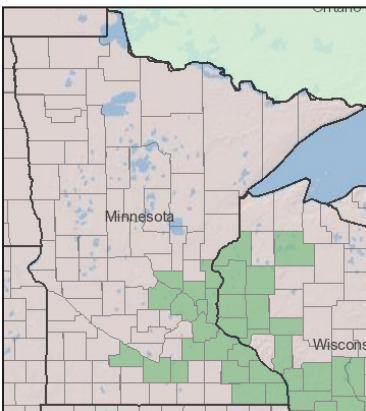


Bladdernut (*Staphylea trifolia*)

Bladdernut (*Staphyleaceae*)

DESCRIPTION: A native understory shrub with attractive striped gray-brown bark and compound leaves, bladdernut grows 10 to 15 feet tall. The white flowers that bloom in April and May when leaves emerge develop into attractive, inflated seed capsules. It grows in southern Minnesota, but not on the western border. Few known pests and diseases affect it.

USES: The flowers attract a variety of pollinators, including honeybees, bumblebees, sweat bees, mining bees, Syrphid flies, dance flies and giant bee flies. It's a source of food and cover, and a nesting site for wildlife. Under-used in garden settings, it can grow in partial shade, propagated by division, root cutting or seed.



Range Map Credit: NRCS Plants Database



Photo Credit: Dave Hanson

Planting Recommendations

A good option for moist, well-drained woodland gardens in full sun to light shade, bladdernut pairs nicely with pagoda dogwood, Allegheny serviceberry or elderberry. It can be used in a shrub border, or pruned into a small tree by cutting additional stems to the ground. The shrub also works well in forest or shoreline restorations. Available at nurseries in

containers or as bare-root plants, it can be found as a single shrub or in masses, as it spreads by underground root suckers. Starting from seed requires two years of cold, moist winters followed by a warm, moist summer for germination. Plants can also be propagated in early spring or late fall by transplanting specimens with expanded root suckers.

REFERENCES:

[Minnesota Wildflowers](#)
[Illinois Wildflowers](#)

Manual of Woody Landscape Plants, Michael A. Dirr
Landscaping With Native Plants of Minnesota, Lynn M. Steiner

STATEWIDE WETLAND INDICATOR STATUS: GP, MW, NCNE: FAC

ID: Three-lobed, papery fruit capsules are a noticeable characteristic of this medium- to fast-growing shrub. Light green throughout the summer, the capsules turn brown in the fall. Bell-shaped flower petals hang from the tips of 1-year-old branches in groups of five to 12. Opposite, compound leaves are comprised of three ovate, dark-green leaflets that turn yellow in the fall.

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