

## Prickly Ash (*Zanthoxylum americanum*)

Origin: Native.

Status in Park: Occasional; it is usually in thickets; it grows in open woods and field edges.

Characteristics: A shrub or small tree with height of up to 15-25 feet; multi-stemmed; the twigs and stems are covered in  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch prickles; flowers are small, green, and inconspicuous, but are fragrant, appear in early spring; fruits are small, round, and reddish, about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch in size, and have a strong, citrusy aroma.

Leaves: Alternate, pinnately compound, with 5-11 leaflets; leaflets are  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 3 inches in length; color dull deep green above, paler beneath; leaf edges are smooth; leaves beneath are armed with sharp prickles.



Location of tagged shrub:



Notes: Contrary to its name, prickly ash is in the citrus family, not the ash family. The plant has a history of medicinal use, with Native Americans using it to treat toothaches and other ailments.