

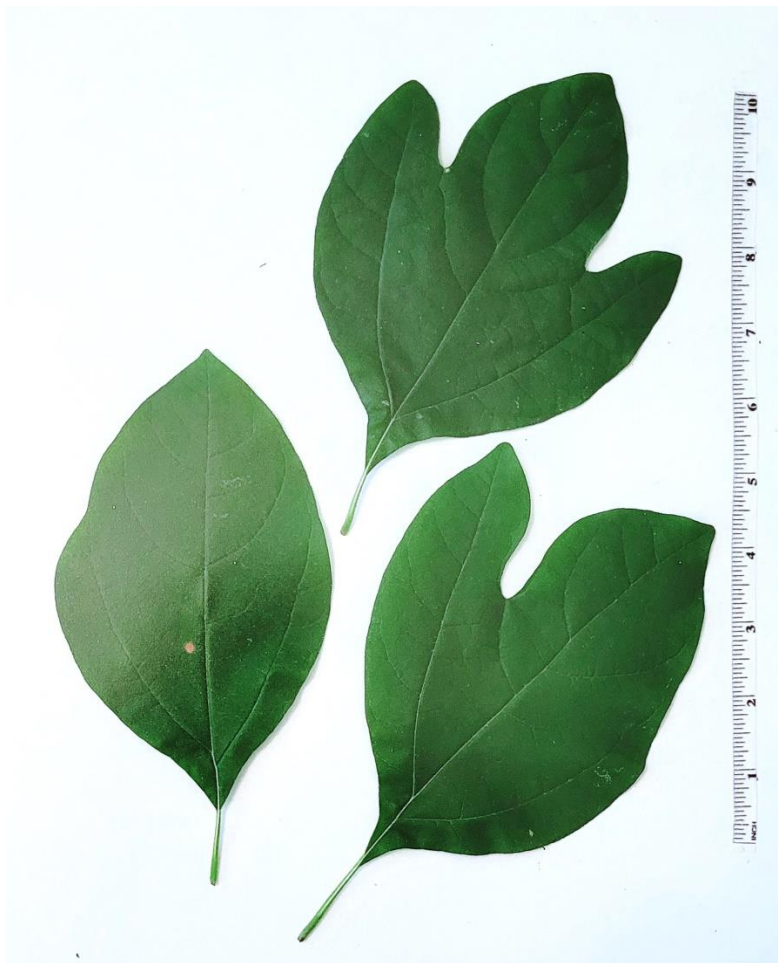
Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*)

Origin: Native.

Status in Park: Widespread; usually in colonies, on bluffs, slopes, and field edges.

Characteristics: Medium-sized tree, up to 70 feet in height, 2 feet in diameter; crown flat-topped, irregular; bark greenish-gray when young, deeply furrowed and reddish-brown when older; twigs slender green and aromatic; flowers greenish-yellow, about 1/3 inch in size, in small clusters; fruit dark blue berries about 1/3 inch long, in deep red cups, on 2-inch long stalks.

Leaves: Alternate, simple; in three shapes, 3-lobed, 2-lobed, or unlobed; blades up to 6 inches long; edges smooth; above green in color and smooth, beneath paler and smooth or hairy.



Locations of tagged trees:



White-centered symbol indicates leaves are too high to be easily seen.

Notes: Sassafras is well-known for its aromatic twigs and distinctively-shaped leaves. The roots yield an aromatic “oil of sassafras”, which has been used as a fragrance in soaps and perfumes. The wood has little commercial value.