

## Wafer Ash (*Ptelea trifoliata*)

Origin: Native.

Status in Park: Widespread, especially along the edges of the old fields.

Characteristics: Small tree or shrub, up to 20 feet in height, 5 inches in diameter; crown rounded; bark brown, somewhat roughened; flowers greenish white, about ½ inch in size, in clusters, in late May to June; fruits thin, wafer-like, round, up to 1 inch across, with seed cases inside.

Leaves: Alternate, palmately compound, with 3 leaflets; leaflets up to 5 inches long, edges with fine teeth or smooth; dark green above and paler below, both surfaces smooth.



Location of tagged tree:



Notes: Wood hard, heavy, close-grained but of no significant commercial value.  
The fruit was once used as a substitute for hops in brewing.