

Tree Information: **American Beech**

Resource - <https://dendro.cnre.vt.edu/dendrology/syllabus/factsheet.cfm?ID=47>



Leaves



Fruit



Bark

**Description:** American Beech is easily recognized from a distance by its smooth, steel-gray bark, and tapering surface roots at the base of its trunk. It is present throughout all of Ohio.

**Leaf:** Alternate, simple, elliptical to oblong-ovate, 2 1/2 to 5 1/2 inches long, pinnately-veined, 11-14 pairs of veins, with each vein ending in a sharp distinct tooth, shiny green above, very waxy and smooth, slightly paler below.

**Flower:** Species is monoecious; male flowers borne on globose heads hanging from a slender 1 inch stalk, female flowers borne on shorter spikes, appearing just after leaves in the spring.

**Fruit:** Nuts are irregularly triangular, shiny brown and edible, found in pairs within a woody husk covered with spines, 1/2 to 3/4 inch long, maturing in the fall.

**Twig:** Very slender, zigzag, light brown in color; buds are long (3/4 inch), light brown, and slender, covered with overlapping scales (best described as "cigar-shaped"), widely divergent from the stems, almost looking like long thorns.

**Bark:** The bark is smooth, thin, and gray in color even on the largest stems. Beech bark diseases severely deforms the smooth bark.

**Contest Criteria:**

- 1) The 2024 Contest is open for **American Beech**. When in doubt call us at 446-6173 ext. 3.
- 2) The Tree nominated must be located in Gallia County.
- 3) A tree may be nominated only once. The first nomination received will be entered in the contest.
- 4) The tree does not have to be on the property of the nominator.
- 5) **Official nomination form must be submitted to the Gallia SWCD, 111 Jackson Pike, Suite 1569, Gallipolis, OH, 45631.**
- 6) Deadline for the nomination is **Thursday, September 5, 2024.**
- 7) The Gallia SWCD Larry Betz Big Tree award will be given at the Annual Meeting/Banquet of the Gallia Soil and Water Conservation District, held in October at the First Church of Nazarene in Gallipolis.
- 8) The landowner will be presented with a plaque; the nominator will be presented with a Tree Identification book.
- 9) Tree will be measured by District personnel and the decision of the judges will be final.

Location of Tree: \_\_\_\_\_

Landowner: \_\_\_\_\_

Person Nominating Tree: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number/Address of Person Nominating: \_\_\_\_\_