



Trees are dioecious. Male flowers have 9 stamens. Each of the 3 inner stamens are subtended by a pair of glands. The 'petals' are really petal-like sepals.



Female flowers also have petal-like sepals. The central pistil is surrounded by 6 sterile staminodes. Both genders are in loose clusters.



The fruit is a dark blue drupe on a red pedicel.



The stem is green with obvious gray lenticels. When scratched, the stem produces a spicy fragrance. Sassafras exhibits sympodial branching. The terminal bud is also green with several smooth scales.



The alternate leaves have 4 distinct shapes, ovoid, mitten-like with a lobe on the left, mitten-like with the lobe on the right and trident shaped. Leaves are aromatic when crushed. Petioles green or red.







*Sassafras albidum*

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Sassafras can have a single trunk, or can form a colony as seen here.



Fall color is yellow, orange and sometimes red.



Bark is ridged and furrowed. The tops of the flattened ridges are lighter in color.

