

***Staphylea trifolia* - Bladdernut**

COMMON NAME: Bladdernut

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Staphylea trifolia* – from *staphyte* meaning “a cluster” and *trifolia* for “three leaved”.

FLOWER: White, bell-shaped flowers

BLOOMING PERIOD: May

SIZE: Up to 12 feet tall

BEHAVIOR: Fast-growing, suckering large shrub or small tree. Establishes dense colonies in the wild where it is most often in shrubby form. The leaves are always in threes.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Does well in rich garden soil with full sun.

NATURAL RANGE: Ontario and most of the eastern United States with a few areas as far west as Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma. In Wisconsin it is not common and is mostly found in the southern and southwestern counties.

SPECIAL FEATURES: The flowers appear in drooping clusters and give way to inflated, bladder-like, egg-shaped, papery seed capsules. The foliage turns yellow in the fall. After the leaves fall, the seed capsules remain and rattle in the wind.

SUGGESTED CARE: Plant carefully and water well the first season.

COMPANION PLANTS: Sycamore, silver maple, sugar maple, American basswood, and river birch. Understory plants would likely be wild leek, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, spring beauty, toothwort, bloodroot and maidenhair fern.