

## EBENACEAE – EBONY FAMILY

**Plant:** shrubs and trees, milky juice

**Stem:** woody

**Root:**

**Leaves:** simple, thick or leathery, entire, mostly alternate, sometimes opposite or whorled; no stipules

**Flowers:** perfect but mostly imperfect (dioecious); small, solitary or several, often along twigs; 3-7 sepals; 3-7 petals, often leathery; stamens equal or 2-3X petals; 3 to many stamens; ovary superior, 2 to several styles and stigmas, 2-16 carpels

**Fruit:** berry or drupe, often fleshy, sometimes edible

**Other:** persimmons locally but widespread in world; Dicotyledons Group

**Genera:** 2+ genera; locally *Diospyros* (persimmon)

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Persimmon; *Diospyros virginiana* L.

# Persimmon

*Diospyros virginiana* L.

Ebenaceae (Ebony Family)

Sam A. Baker State Park, Wayne County, Missouri

Notes: tree, small to medium; dioecious, pistillate flower 4-lobed and yellow; leaves alternate, lanceolate-ovate with sharp tip; bark gray to black, deeply divided into blocks; twigs gray-brown, hairy or not; winter buds blunt (not acute) with 2+ scales; green fruit turning orange, edible but astringent if not ripe; spring

[V Max Brown, 2006]

