

## Mulberry, White and Red

(*Morus alba*, *Morus rubra*)

There are less than 10 species of Mulberry found in the USA, but only White and Red Mulberry have significant distribution. Red Mulberry is primarily seen in the Eastern third of the country, while White Mulberry is found in every lower-48 state except Nevada. The exact specimen found in any given area is not critical since cross-reactivity within this Genus can be considered to be extensive.

Mulberry can grow 20 to 60 feet tall, but also can be found as a large shrub. The leaves can be quite variable in shape, some lobed and others not. The fruited varieties make these trees easy to identify, with the Red Mulberry producing deep red/purple fruits similar to a blackberry. The fruit of the White Mulberry is, as one would expect, white. The fruits are edible, but not nearly as desired as other berries. The fruits can also be quite a nuisance, as they stain whatever they land on and bird droppings from the fruit are just as troublesome. Therefore “fruitless” varieties have been cultivated for landscaping use.

Mulberry pollen is highly allergenic.

