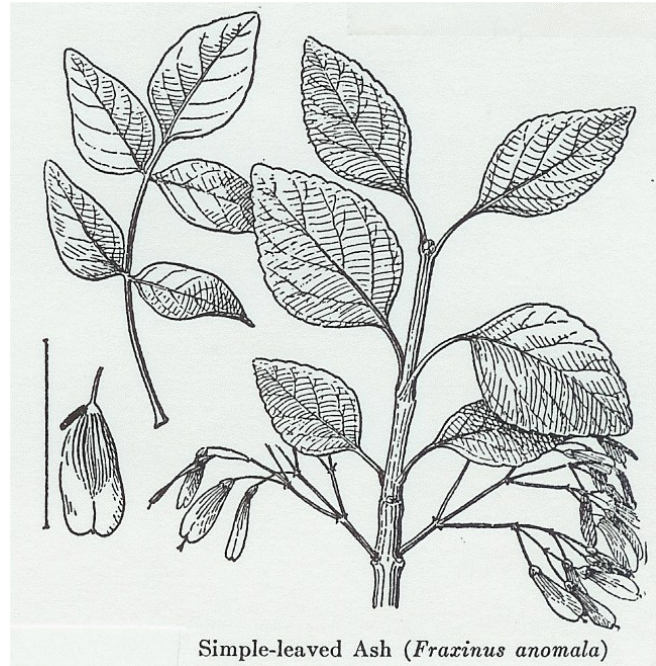


Singleleaf Ash

Singleleaf ash is an ash tree with single rounded leaves, growing as a shrub or small tree, 6 to 25 feet tall (2 to 8 m), along streams and canyons in the desert sandstone country of western Colorado below 6000 feet (1800) elevation. It is much more common in Utah and northern Arizona than in Colorado, and may occur in extreme northwestern New Mexico. It was one of the last native trees of Colorado to receive scientific attention, the description being published in 1871. The scientific name is *Fraxinus anomala*. This ash is "anomalous" because its leaves are not compound as are the leaves of most other ash trees.



Simple-leaved Ash (*Fraxinus anomala*)

Identification

Leaves: Single, rounded, 1 to 2 inches (2.5 to 5 cm) long, with smooth margins or sometimes toothed with a pointed tip. Occasionally as three-part leaves: three leaves attached to the same leaf stalk.

Stems: Four sided twigs.

Fruit: One-seed samara (flat and papery) 1/2 to 1 inch (1.2 to 2.5 cm) long and 1/3 to 1/2 inch (8 to 12 mm) wide, notched at the tip; grouped in clusters.

Bark: Thin, dark brown tinged with red, in narrow scaly ridges.

Text Copyright © 1998 - 2010 S. K. Wier. Reproduction reuse or retransmission prohibited without prior written permission from the author. Individuals may print one copy for their personal use.