

Persimmon Cabin



Welcome to the Persimmon Cabin at Turtle Lake!

The persimmon cabin is dedicated to the American persimmon tree. You may have seen persimmon fruit at the grocery store, but this variety is likely the larger Oriental persimmon.

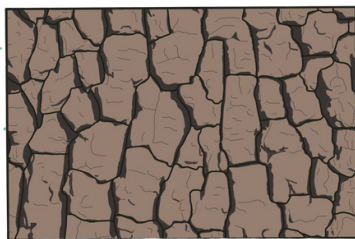
The persimmons native to this area are much smaller, but are still a delicious treat. The fruits are most commonly used in jams and baked goods, and the seeds can also be roasted and used as a coffee substitute.

Just be sure that you only eat the fruit when it's ripe. Unripe fruit is full of tannins and is so bitter it will pucker your lips and dry out your mouth.

Alligator Bark

What does the American persimmon tree and an alligator have in common? Well, not a whole lot, but the bark of the American persimmon tree is sometimes called "alligator" bark because it resembles reptile scales.

The bark is thick and dark-gray, and it grows in a checkerboard pattern.



American Persimmon

Diospyros virginiana

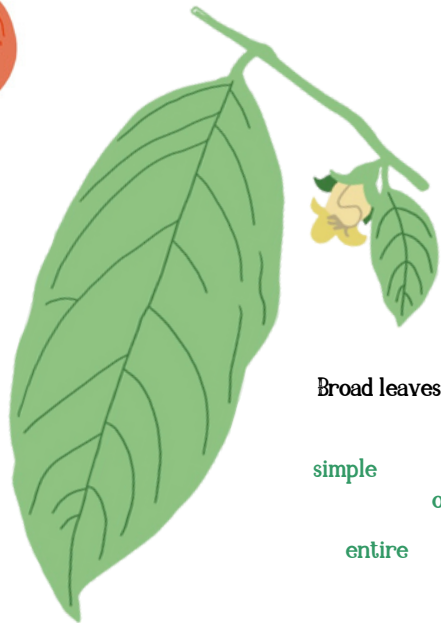
The American persimmon tree is a deciduous tree in the ebony family. Its late fall fruits provide an important food source to wildlife when other food is scarce.



Small yellow flowers bloom in May or June. Each tree will only produce female flowers or male flowers, not both.

Small, round, orange fruits ripen in the fall. Fruits are eaten by raccoons, foxes, black bears, skunks, turkeys, yellow-rumped warblers, cedar waxwings, catbirds, American robins, pileated woodpeckers and mockingbirds.

*the name persimmon comes from the Algonquin name "putchamin."



Broad leaves are
simple
entire
oval

Can you find the fairies' favorite stand of persimmons? Head to number 5 on the map, and look for trees with "alligator" bark and simple oval leaves. You may even see the fruit growing or ripening.

