

Morus Rubra Identification

We are hoping to identify pure *Morus rubra* (native red mulberry) trees with exceptional fruit quality in order to make them available to hobby fruit growers, land stewards, nurseries, and for use in future mulberry breeding work. If you know of a red mulberry tree that produces quality fruit, please help us in this endeavor.

The imported *Morus alba* (white mulberry) has spread across most of the United States and because, unlike its name suggests, it can have not only white fruit but red, pink, or purple fruit as well, it is very commonly misidentified and even sold by reputable nurseries as *Morus rubra*. Additionally complicating the matter is the fact that *Morus alba* and *Morus rubra* readily cross-pollinate leading to new generations of hybrid offspring that will outcompete the native parents. These hybrids can be tough to distinguish from pure native trees, so we ask that you consult the reference guides that we have provided below if you have any doubts. If you do think you know of a *Morus rubra* tree and if it produces quality fruit, please participate in our contest by filling out this [form and fruit evaluation rubric](#) sometime during the fruit-ripening season. After evaluating entries we will then invite you to mail a sample to the UVA-Wise Genetics Lab for DNA testing.

Identification Guides

Print Resources

<https://bplant.org/compare/140-141>

https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/fnr/fnr_237.pdf

<https://www.carolinanature.com/trees/moru.html>

https://bluegrasswoodland.com/uploads/Muddled_Mulberries_in_Kentucky.pdf

Videos

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x2FZMeexN74>

<https://youtu.be/tkleCoGHzfI>

<https://youtu.be/YkzamGjbG08>