

TREE IDENTIFICATION KEY

NEEDLES

BUNDLES OF NEEDLES:

2-5 needles per bunch = PINES

(5-9 inches, cones 4-6 = LOBLOLLY PINE)

Deciduous, many needles, short-spur branches = LARCH

SINGLES:

Needles on pegs and whorled: SPRUCE

Needles on suction cups and two-ranked: FIRS

Flattened with petioles

Fern-like, deciduous, green on both sides = BALD CYPRESS

Wide, <3/4 in, rounded, green needles, white lines below = HEMLOCK

Yellow-green to blue-green, white lines below, >3/4in, fragrant = DOUGLAS FIR

SCALES

Flattened spray = CEDAR

Berry-like bluish cones = JUNIPER (e.cedar is one)

LEAVES

QUESTION: Compound (below) or Simple(next page)?

COMPOUND:

Palmate leaf arrangement:

Obovate, 5-7 , serrate leaflets = HORSE CHESTNUT

Elliptic/obovate, serrate leaflets = BUCKEYE

Pinnate leaf arrangement

Bi-pinnate, short thorns, entire margin, elliptic/oblong/obovate = BLACK LOCUST

Tri-pinnate, long thorns, crenate margin, elliptic/oblong/obovate = HONEY LOCUST

Pinnate

Alternate, obovate/lanceolate, serrate, <9 blades, 3 large terminal leaflets = HICKORY

Opposite, ovate/lanceolate, 5-9 leaflets, balanced size, smooth or finely serrate = ASH

Alternate, ovate, lanceolate, serrate margin, 9-21 leaflets

11-17, stalkless, hairy = BUTTERNUT

15-23, small/missing terminal leaflets = BLACK WALNUT

Alternate, lanceolate, serrate, 11-17 = PECAN

SIMPLE:

LOBED:

3-shaped (unlobed, lobed, and lobed on same tree):

Serrate margin = MULBERRY

Smooth margin = SASSAFRAS

One-shape:

Palmate veins:

3-5 balanced lobes, less than 4in, opposite = MAPLE

Serrate = RED MAPLE

Smooth = SUGAR MAPLE

Large, 3+ main veins, serrate, 3-5 shallow lobes = SYCAMORE

4 shallow lobes, truncated tip = POPLAR

5-7 lobes, star-shaped, notched base = SWEET GUM

Pinnate veins:

Rounded-sinus and lobe:

Irregular sinus = OVERCUP OAK

Sinus 1/2 way to midrib, not irregular = WHITE OAK

Rounded sinus, angular lobe tops, spines = PIN OAK

Evergreen, shallow peaked lobes, sharp spines = AM. HOLLY

UNLOBED:

Smooth (or mostly smooth) margin:

Cordate/ovate/orbiculate, reticulate veins = REDBUD

Large, evergreen, slick dark tops, pale bottoms, elliptic/ ovate = MAGNOLIA

<5in, Elliptic /ovate, evergreen, white underneath = SWEETBAY MAGNOLIA

Ovate/elliptic, dark top, pale bottom, = PERSIMMON

Ovate, curved veins, edges toothed under lens, opposite = DOGWOOD

Elliptic /oblong, shiny green top = BLACKGUM (BLACK TUPELO)

Spatulate/linear/obovate, deciduous, but leaves stay on = WATER OAK

Lanceolate, oblong, elliptic = WILLOW OAK

Elliptic, linear, shiny dk grn top, gray under = LIVE OAK

Elliptic/ovate, <6in, occasional shallow teeth = WATER TUPELO

Serrated margin:

Crenate margin:

Obovate/oblong, white underside: SWAMP CHESTNUT OAK

Obovate/oblong, not-white below: CHESTNUT OAK

Serrate margin:

Cordate, reticulate veins, white below = BASSWOOD

Ovate/lanceolate, reticulate veins, green beneath = SUGARBERRY

Lanceolate/oblong, net veins = WILLOW

Ovate/oblong, sharp points, symmetrical = BEECH

Serrulate margin:

Oblong/ovate, reticulate veins, rusty hairs below = BLACK CHERRY

AND entire, oblong/lanceolate = SOURWOOD

Double-serrate margin:

Oblong/ovate, asymmetrical base, >3in = ELM

Ovate/rhomboid, symmetrical base = BIRCH