

TREE IDENTIFICATION KEY

DECIDUOUS TREE KEY

1. Opposite branching (2)
1. Alternate branching (4)
 2. Compound leaves (3)
 2. Simple leaves: Maple species (see a-c below)

- a. Leaf margins smooth, 5 lobes**Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*)**
 - b. Leaf margins double-toothed, 3 to 5 lobes.....**Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*)**
 - c. Leaf margins single-toothed, 3 to 5 lobes, lobes separated by deep, angular openings**Silver Maple (*Acer saccharinum*)**
3. 3 (rarely 5) leaflets.....**Box Elder (*Acer negundo*)**
3. 5 to 11 leaflets: Ash species (see a-c below)

- a. 9 to 11 leaflets, leaflets do not have petiole.....**Black Ash (*Fraxinus nigra*)**
 - b. 5 to 9 leaflets, leaflets have petiole, smile-shaped leaf scar extending up sides of new bud**White Ash (*Fraxinus americana*)**
 - c. 7 to 9 leaflets, leaflets have petiole, leaf scar ends at base of new bud.....**Green Ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*)**
4. Compound leaves (5)
4. Simple leaves (8)
 5. 7 or fewer (usually 5) leaflets, egg-shaped nut**Shagbark Hickory (*Carya ovata*)**
 5. 7 or more leaflets (6)
 6. Leaflets rounded**Black Locust (*Robinia pseudonacacia*)**
 6. Leaflets pointed (7)
 7. Leaf 6 to 8 inches long**Mountain Ash (*Sorbus americana*)**
 7. Leaf 8 to 24 inches long**Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*)**
 8. Leaves not lobed (9)
 8. Leaves lobed: Oak species (see a-f below)

- a. Rounded lobes, 5 to 9 deep even lobes and sinuses, leaves hairless**White Oak (*Quercus alba*)**
 - b. Rounded lobes, pair of deep sinuses near middle of leaf, hairy underside of leaves**Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*)**
 - c. Rounded lobes, leaf narrow at base and broad near middle, hairy underside of leaves**Swamp White Oak (*Quercus bicolor*)**
 - d. Pointed lobes, sinues extend halfway to mid-vein, leaves hairless, dull green**Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*)**
 - e. Pointed lobes, deep sinues extend 3/4 of the way to mid-vein, leaves hairless, bright green and shiny**Northern Pin Oak (*Quercus ellipsoidalis*)**
 - f. Pointed lobes, deep sinues, young leaves hairy underneath, dark green and shiny, leathery**Black Oak (*Quercus velutina*)**

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9. Bark not papery (10)

9. Bark papery: Birch species (see a-c below)

- a. Leaves single-toothed, white peeling bark**White Birch (*Betula papyrifera*)**
- b. Leaves double-toothed, dull green leaves, yellow or bronzed bark**Yellow Birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*)**
- c. Leaves double-toothed, shiny green leaves, reddish-brown to silvery-gray bark.....**River Birch (*Betula nigra*)**

10. Leaf petioles flat (11)

10. Leaf petiole round (12)

11. Leaf triangular-shaped with coarse teeth**Eastern Cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*)**

11. Leaf oval: Aspen species (see a-b below)

- a. Leaves have small, fine teeth less than 1/16 inch.....**Trembling Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*)**
- b. Leaves have large teeth.....**Big-toothed Aspen (*Populus grandidentata*)**

12. Leaves nearly as wide as long (13)

12. Leaves longer than wide (14)

13. Leaves finely toothed**Balsam Poplar (*Populus balsamifera*)**

13. Leaves coarsely toothed.....**Basswood (*Tilia americana*)**

14. Leaf less than 3 times as long as wide (15)

14. Leaf at least 3 times as long as wide.....**Willow species (Common species include Weeping Willow and Black Willow)**

15. Leaf veins thin and branch often (16)

15. Leaf veins thick and run from center to edge of leaf without branching (17)

16. Fine blunt teeth, leaves 2 to 6 inches long, bark dark**Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*)**

16. Sharp pointed teeth, leaves 2 to 4 inches long and hairy.....**Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)**

17. Leaf shiny and leathery (thick), coarse sharp teeth.....**Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*)**

17. Leaf dull and rough (18)

18. Most leaf bases even, seed in elongated clusters.....**Ironwood (*Ostrya virginiana*)**

18. Leaf base uneven, seeds flat and papery.....**Elm species (Common species include American Elm, Rock Elm, and Slippery Elm)**