

Alternate-Leaf Dogwood

Cornus alternifolia (native)



What to Know

Alternate-Leaf Dogwood is a small deciduous tree popular as a landscape ornamental. Leaves are alternate and arranged in clusters at branch tips. Each leaf has four to five veins that run parallel along the leaf toward the tip.

It produces dark blue to black berries on short red stalks. Clusters of white or cream-coloured flowers commonly emerge in June. Mature bark displays shallow ridges.

How to Identify This Tree



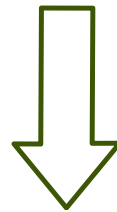
Deciduous



Simple



Symmetrical



Alternate



Smooth



No Lobes



Broad



Oval

Interesting Facts

The berries of Alternate-Leaf Dogwood are not edible for humans but are an important source of food for birds.

American Basswood

Tilia americana (native)



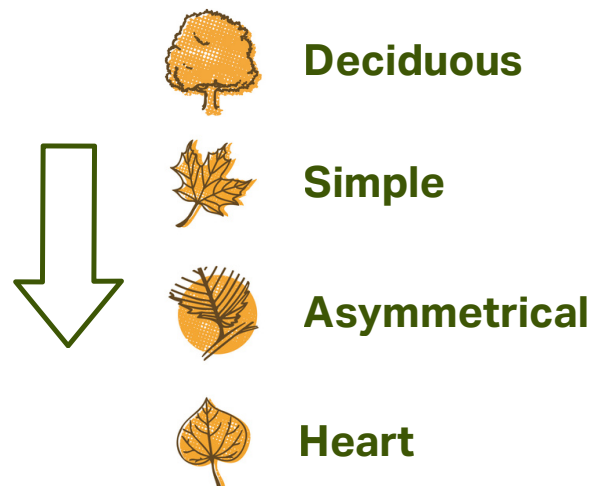
What to Know

American Basswood is a medium to large deciduous tree common in southern Ontario. Its range extends from Lake Nipissing and Sault Ste. Marie in the north to the Ontario Minnesota border in the northwest.

Its heart-shaped leaves are alternate with an asymmetrical base, rough edges, and small (fine) teeth. Mature bark is dark grey-brown with flat-topped ridges.

Clusters of fragrant, cream-yellow flowers bloom in July.

How to Identify This Tree



Interesting Facts

American Basswood is valued by woodworkers for its light, easily worked wood that can be used for crafts, carving, and musical instruments. The inner bark of American Basswood is very fibrous and can be used to make baskets and nets.

American Basswood is also important for a variety of wildlife, which consumes its twigs and berries. Pollinators are attracted to American Basswood as it flowers in midsummer when few other trees are in bloom.

American Beech

Fagus grandifolia (native)

What to Know

American Beech is a medium-sized deciduous tree whose range extends across southern and central Ontario, as far north as the northern shore of Georgian Bay.

It has simple leaves with alternate branching. Leaves have rough edges and straight parallel veins. Dead leaves may remain on trees well into winter, a phenomenon known as marcescence.

Mature bark is silver-grey and smooth, often compared to an elephant's leg. American Beech produces small burs that contain nuts and are green to reddish-brown.

How to Identify This Tree



Deciduous



Simple



Alternate



Symmetrical



Rough



No Lobes



Oval



Broad

Interesting Facts

American Beech can live for over 200 years. Its nuts are an important food source for wildlife. Beech bark disease is currently threatening this species across its range.



American Elm

Ulmus americana (native)

What to Know

American Elm is a large deciduous tree with a round crown and distinctive drooping silhouette. Its range extends across southern and central Ontario, north to Timmins and west to Kenora.

Leaves are thick with prominent veins running from the middle of the leaf (midrib) to the edges. Leaves have an asymmetrical base and are toothed or rough around the edge. They are also very rough to the touch, almost like fine sandpaper.

American Elm produces a flat nutlet, also known as a samara, which hangs in clusters on slender stalks. Small flowers do not have petals (apetalous) and instead are tassel-like clusters. Mature bark is grey with coarse, layered ridges.

How to Identify This Tree



Deciduous



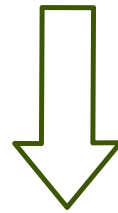
Simple



Asymmetrical



Oval



Interesting Facts

Before the introduction of Dutch elm disease, American Elm was one of Ontario's largest native trees. Today, most American Elms in Ontario are young and medium-sized. These trees provide food and shelter to several species of birds, small mammals, and insects.

American Hop-Hornbeam

Ostrya virginiana (native)

What to Know

American Hop-Hornbeam is a small understory deciduous tree, growing up to 18 m tall. It can be found in southern Ontario, north to Lake Nipissing and Sault. Ste. Marie. The Lake of the Woods region in northwestern Ontario also contains populations of American Hop-Hornbeam.

Alternate, simple leaves are two to six inches long and dark green on top with a pale underside. They have rough edges with small serrations, also known as teeth.

Nuts grow in clusters of dried, leafy, inflated sacks, similar in appearance to hops. Mature bark is grey-brown with narrow peeling strips that are loose at both ends.

How to Identify This Tree



Deciduous



Simple



Alternate



Symmetrical



Rough



No Lobes



Oval



Broad

Interesting Facts

American Hop-Hornbeam is also known as "ironwood" because it has the hardest and densest wood of any Canadian tree species.

American Mountain-Ash

Sorbus americana (native)

What to Know

A slow-growing, deciduous tree, typically reaching up to 10 m tall. American Mountain-Ash grows across Ontario, south of Hudson Bay. Colourful berries and flowers make this an eye-catching tree.

Compound leaves consist of 11 to 17 leaflets. The leaves also arch and are dull green with rough or toothed edges. The plant produces groups of small white flowers between June and July. Clusters of bright orange-red fruits, similar in appearance to berries, appear between August and September.

Mature bark is red-brown and slightly scaly.

How to Identify This Tree



Deciduous



Compound



Rough



**Pinnately
Compound**



No Lobes



Narrow



Linear



Alternate

Interesting Facts

American Mountain-Ash trees was named for its ability to tolerate high altitudes. Its bright berries are an excellent food source for birds and moose.



American Sycamore

Platanus occidentalis (native)

What to Know

American Sycamore is a large deciduous tree typically growing 20 to 30 m tall. It has maple-like leaves with three to five shallow lobes, bright green on top with a paler underside.

It produces solitary, round fruits that hang from a stalk.

Its distinct camouflage-like bark easily distinguishes it from other species. Reddish-brown scales flake off, exposing a pale inner bark.

How to Identify This Tree



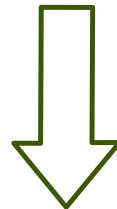
Deciduous



Simple



Symmetrical



Alternate



Rough



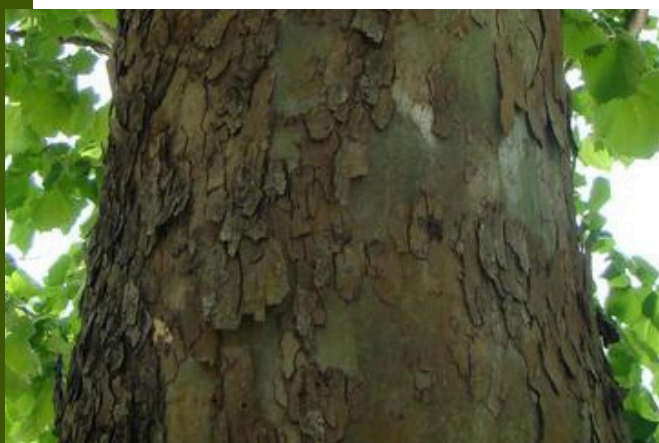
Lobed



Palmate

Interesting Facts

American Sycamore is a fast-growing species found in southern Ontario and is among the largest tree in eastern deciduous forests. It is often confused with the London Plane tree which has more deeply lobed leaves.



American Witch-Hazel

Hamamelis virginiana (native)

What to Know

American Witch-Hazel is a medium-sized deciduous shrub growing up to six m tall. It typically forms in a dense, multi-stemmed clump. At the northern edge of its range, American Witch-Hazel occurs from southern Ontario to southern Nova Scotia. It grows well in woodlands and along forest edges and stream banks.

American Witch-Hazel leaves are oval with rough, wavy-toothed, edges (margins) and an asymmetrical base.

This shrub produces unique, twisted, ribbon-like yellow flowers in fall in clusters of three. Seeds are encased in hard, hairy capsules 10 to 14 mm long.

How to Identify This Tree



Deciduous



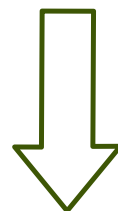
Simple



Asymmetrical



Oval



Interesting Facts

The seeds of the American Witch-Hazel take one year to mature. As a result, this shrub can bear flowers and fertilized seeds at the same time. When mature, these seeds are forcibly ejected from the pods. Additionally, the bark, twigs, and leaves contain an astringent chemical used in skin lotions and to treat minor skin irritations or cuts.



Balsam Fir

Abies balsamea (native)

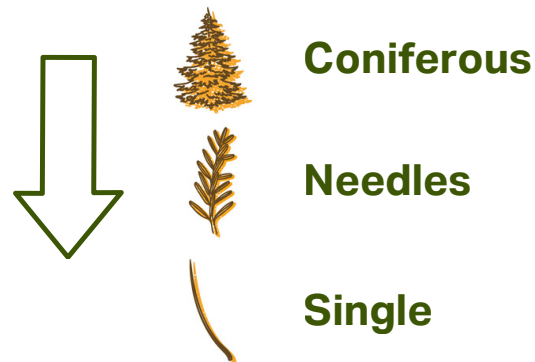
What to Know

Balsam Fir is a medium-sized coniferous tree up to 30 m tall. Its size, combined with a narrow, tapering silhouette (shape), makes this a distinctive species. Balsam Fir has a wide range and can be found growing across Ontario.

It has single, flat needles - between two to four cm long - attached directly to the twig. The needle's upper surface is shiny and dark, with white dots on the underside. Female cones are four to ten cm long, stand upright, and are purple.

The bark is grey with prominent, raised resin blisters when young, developing irregular brown scales as the tree ages.

How to Identify This Tree



Interesting Facts

Balsam Fir has shallow roots, so trees are prone to falling down in extremely high winds.

Commercially, Balsam Fir is harvested for pulp and plywood. Oils can also be derived from the tree to make essential oils. The resin has been traditionally used as an antiseptic for burns, sores, and wounds.

Additionally, Balsam Fir are a popular Christmas tree choice because it retains its needles after being cut.



Balsam Poplar

Populus balsamifera (native)

What to Know

Balsam Poplar is a medium-sized deciduous tree, typically growing up to 25 m tall. Native to North America, Balsam Poplar can be found from coast to coast in Canada. Within Ontario the species is widespread and occurs everywhere except the northern areas of Hudson Bay.

Leaves are dark green above with lighter silver to yellow-green undersides; oval in shape, tapering to a point, with slightly rough edges. Leaves attach to the branch with flattened stalks.

Balsam Poplar bark starts smooth and greenish-brown on young trees, transitioning to dark gray and deeply furrowed with flat-topped ridges on mature trees.

How to Identify This Tree



Deciduous



Simple



Alternate



Symmetrical



Rough



No lobes



Oval



Broad

Interesting Facts

Often selected for planting in rural areas to form windbreaks or shelterbelts due to its fast growth. Balsam Poplar buds are also an important food source for wildlife.



Black Cherry

Prunus serotina (native)



What to Know

Black Cherry is a deciduous tree and the largest native cherry species in the province, reaching heights of 22 m in southern Ontario (and 10 m in northern Ontario).

Thick, dark green leaves, with alternate branching and rough edges. Pale undersides with some fine hairs. Clusters of red to black cherries, eight to 10 mm across, ripen between August and September. Mature bark is dark with flaky scales.

How to Identify This Tree



Deciduous



Simple



Alternate



Symmetrical



Rough



No Lobes



Oval



Broad

Interesting Facts

Black Cherry tolerates a wide range of growing conditions and is an important food source for wildlife. Black Cherry is a pioneer species, often growing in previously disturbed open areas with significant sunlight. Its wood is popular for fine carpentry because of its workability and unique colour.

Black Spruce

Picea mariana (native)

What to Know

Black Spruce is a medium to large coniferous tree species with widespread distribution and can be found growing across Ontario and Canada.

Needles are grey-green, four-sided, and attach directly to the branch from a short stalk. The needles are arranged in a spiral pattern and curve upward.

Male and female cones grow on the same tree. Male cones are small and numerous, whereas female cones are two to three cm long and hang on short, curved stalks. Black Spruce's mature bark is grey-brown with thin, irregular scales.

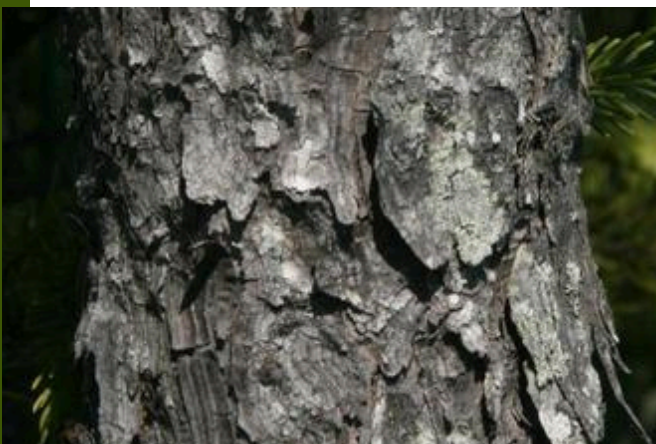
How to Identify This Tree



Interesting Facts

Black Spruce cones are serotinous, meaning that fire and extreme heat will stimulate cones to open and drop seeds. It is typically a slow-growing wetland tree but can also withstand drier upland sites.

Black Spruce is an important commercial species, primarily harvested for pulp and paper production and lumber. It is by far the most common tree in Ontario.



Black Walnut

Juglans nigra (native)

What to Know

Black Walnut is a large deciduous tree 30 to 40 m tall. It has yellow-green compound leaves, 20 to 60 cm long, which are pinnately divided into 14 to 23 leaflets. The leaves are rough with fine serrations or teeth along the edges.

In the spring, you can find small green male and female catkins (flowers) on the same tree. The tree produces round, yellow-green fruits (nuts) with a thick husk over a hard shell, hanging in clusters of one to three. Its mature bark is dark with rounded ridges.

How to Identify This Tree



Deciduous



Compound



Rough



**Pinnately
Compound**



No Lobes



Narrow



Linear



Alternate

Interesting Facts

Black Walnut is common throughout moist, low-lying areas in southwestern Ontario. It produces a toxin, called juglone, from its roots and leaves, which prevents other plants from establishing in the immediate area.



Bur Oak

Quercus macrocarpa (native)

What to Know

Bur Oak is a medium to large deciduous tree, growing up to 30 m tall. Its leaves are smooth, simple, and lobed, alternating on the twig. The lobes are particularly round and smooth.

Bur Oak acorns have distinctive caps, with scales that cover three-quarters of the nut.

Mature bark is reddish-grey with thick, scaly ridges.

How to Identify This Tree



Deciduous



Simple



Symmetrical



Alternate



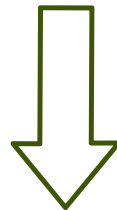
Smooth



Lobed



Sinuate



Interesting Facts

Bur Oak is the most common native White Oak (subgroup in the oak family) found in Ontario. Depending on where this tree grows, it can be different shapes. It can tolerate forest fires and drought thanks to its thick bark and deep roots.



Common Hackberry

Celtis occidentalis (native)



What to Know

Common Hackberry is the largest native hackberry, growing up to 15 m tall. Found across southern Ontario from Windsor to the Ottawa Valley, it tolerates urban conditions well.

This tree has narrow, bluish-green leaves with sharp teeth and an asymmetrical base. The underside of its leaves is slightly hairy.

The fruits, small and berry-like, are yellow-orange at first and often turn purple in the fall. The bark is brownish-grey with thick corky ridges and yellow streaks.

How to Identify This Tree



Deciduous



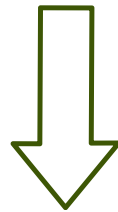
Simple



Asymmetrical



Oval



Interesting Facts

Hackberries live 150 to 200 years in the wild, and the small berries, can be eaten and have traditionally been used as seasoning for meat or made into jams.

As the wood of Common Hackberry easily rots, it has limited commercial applications but can be used to produce boxes and veneer.



Eastern Flowering Dogwood

Cornus florida (native)

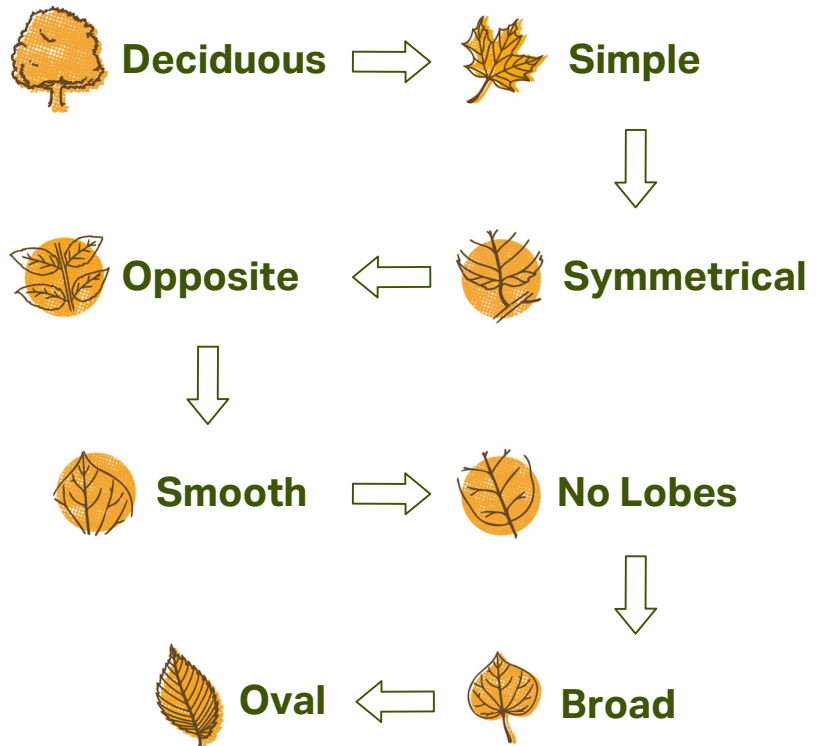
What to Know

Eastern Flowering Dogwood is a small deciduous tree or large shrub three to ten meters tall. It has simple, oval leaves that sometimes cluster at the end of the branch. The leaves have smooth edges, a grey-green underside and, opposite arrangement on the branch.

In spring, clusters form with 20 - 30 tiny yellow flowers, while large, showy white or pink leaves resembling petals enclose them.

The mature bark is reddish-brown, deeply checkered with four-sided scales, giving it the appearance of alligator skin.

How to Identify This Tree



Interesting Facts

In Canada, Eastern Flowering Dogwood occurs only in the Carolinian Zone (southwestern Ontario from Toronto to Sarnia to Lake Erie). Due to its limited range, the species is listed as endangered in Ontario.

Eastern Hemlock

Tsuga canadensis (native)

What to Know

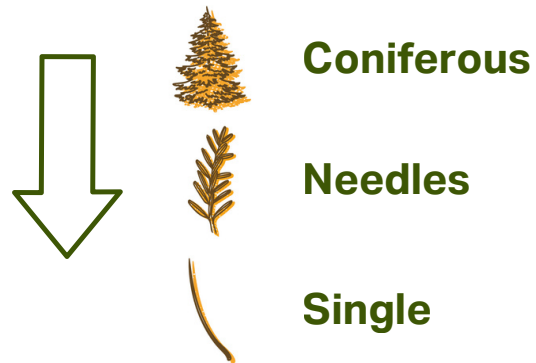
Eastern Hemlock is a large coniferous tree, typically growing up to 30 m. The species has a conical shape, with a wide base tapering into a thin top.

Single needles grow directly from the stem. Needles are short (one to two cm long), dark yellow-green on top, and flat and flexible. White bands appear on the underside of needles.

Eastern Hemlock produces small, round cones, 12 - 20 mm long. Male and female cones grow on the same tree. Male cones are yellowish while female cones are light brown.

Mature bark is dark brown, furrowed with broad ridges.

How to Identify This Tree



Interesting Facts

Eastern Hemlock provides dense, year-round, cover and food for wildlife, including deer and many bird species. Eastern Hemlock is one of several tree species whose bark contains tannins, a substance used historically to treat leather in a process known as “vegetable tanning”. A long-lived tree, individual Eastern Hemlock, may reach 600 years of age.



Eastern Redbud

Cercis canadensis (native)

What to Know

Eastern Redbud can grow as a large deciduous shrub or small tree, six to nine meters tall.

It has bluish-green leaves with pale undersides. They are heart-shaped with smooth edges.

The trunk and branches of Eastern Redbud erupt in showy clusters of purple-pink flowers in early spring. Flat reddish-brown seed pods five to ten cm long follow. The bark changes from greyish and smooth when young to reddish-brown and scaly when mature.

How to Identify This Tree



Deciduous



Simple



Alternate



Symmetrical



Smooth



No lobes



Heart



Broad



Interesting Facts

A popular choice for backyard plantings, Eastern Redbud has escaped cultivation in many areas and is considered naturalized. A small wild population, believed to exist in Pelee Island, has been extirpated (no longer exists).

Honey Locust

Gleditsia triacanthos (native)



What to Know

Honey Locust is a large deciduous tree, typically growing up to 30 m tall. This tree is rare but naturally occurring in southern Ontario. Due to its adaptability, Honey Locust has been planted beyond its natural range in Ontario and globally.

Honey Locust have a pinnately compound (feather-like) leaf which may once or twice divided. When once divided each leaf is composed of 4-7 paired secondary stalks along the central leaf stalk. Each secondary stalk contains 18-30 leaflets.

Produces flowering catkins in the summer. Seeds are protected by large, twisted and flattened pods, 15-40 cm long.

Bark furrowed with age. Large, protective thorns, up to 30 cm long, grow from the bark. Thornless cultivars are available.

How to Identify This Tree



Deciduous



Compound



Smooth



**Pinnately
Compound**



Broad



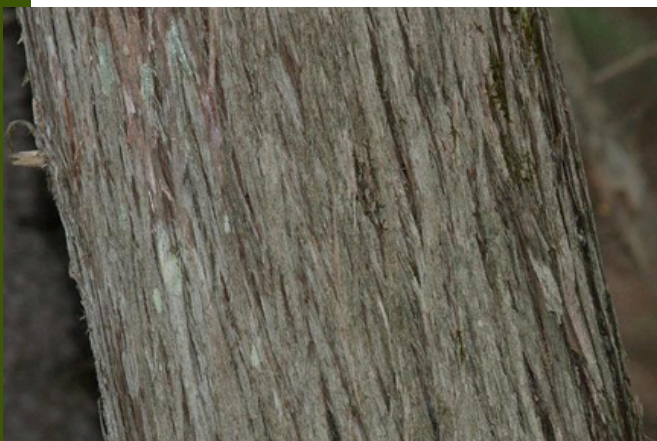
**Divided
Once**

Interesting Facts

Honey Locust can grow up to 60 cm per year, making it a popular tree for shade or windbreaks.

Eastern White Cedar

Thuja occidentalis (native)



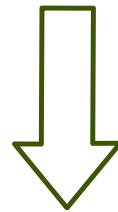
What to Know

Eastern White Cedar is a small, hardy, slow-growing coniferous tree reaching up to 15 m in height. Eastern White Cedar grows throughout Ontario but, prefers moist areas with limestone bedrock.

Small, scaled needles cover fan-shaped branches. Needles are flat and yellow-green.

Tiny cones, seven to 12 mm long, grow in clumps. Its mature bark is grey and flat and formed into thin strips that peel away from the trunk at the ends.

How to Identify This Tree



Coniferous

Scales

Interesting Facts

Eastern White Cedar usually lives 200 years, but much older individuals - up to 700 years old - have been found growing on rock faces in the Niagara Escarpment.

Highly resistant to rot and termites due to resins found in the tree, Eastern White Cedar is a popular choice for outdoor furniture, boats or canoes and exterior finishes such as shingles or fences.

Eastern White Cedar is also valuable for wildlife, providing shelter and food for a diverse range of species, including deer, snowshoe hares, porcupines, red squirrels, and many birds.

Eastern White Pine

Pinus strobus (native)

What to Know

Eastern White Pine is a large deciduous tree 20 to 35 m tall. It is widespread across Ontario - excluding the far north, with a range extending throughout eastern North America.

Large needles, five to 15 cm long, grow in bundles of five and are blue-green, soft, and flexible.

Male and female cones grow on the same tree. Male cones are small and yellow and grow in clusters, whereas female cones are large (eight to 20 cm), light brown, and often curved.

Eastern White Pine's mature bark is dark greyish-green with broad, scaled ridges.

How to Identify This Tree



Coniferous



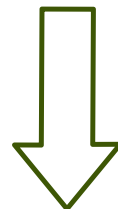
Needles



5+ Needles

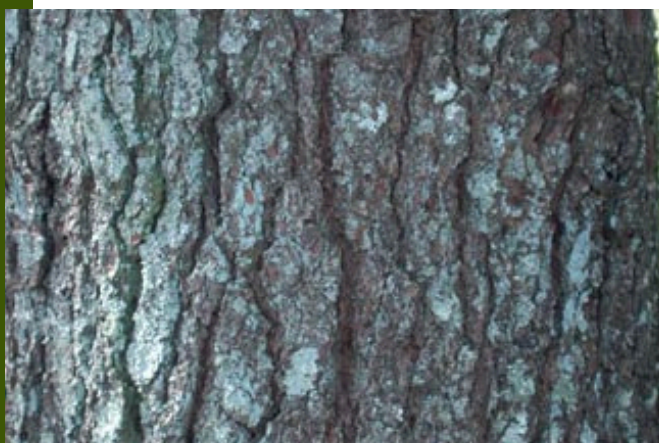


Long (More than 5cm)



Interesting Facts

Eastern White Pine produces extremely valuable lumber used for interior and exterior construction, woodworking, and furniture. In 1984, Ontario selected the Eastern White Pine as its provincial tree to represent the province's vast forests.



Ginkgo

Ginkgo biloba (non-native)

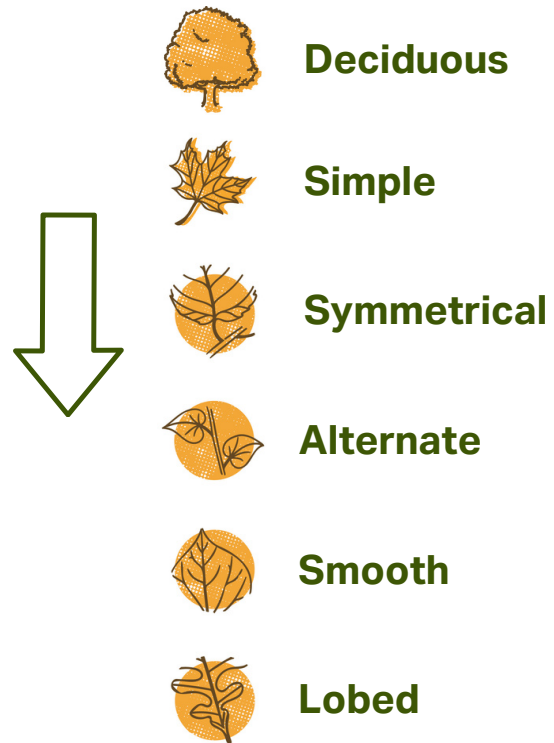
What to Know

Ginkgo is a large deciduous tree 20 to 35 m tall. Widely planted in North America, Ginkgo is native to China. It is easily identified by its distinctive fan-shaped leaves, which turn from green to deep yellow in the fall.

Female Ginkgoes produce round, yellow fruits that hang in clusters with one fruit per stalk. Female trees are unpopular, as the seeds emit an unpleasant smell. Male trees produce clusters of flowers that resemble catkins, usually in May.

Ginkgo's mature bark is ashy-grey and deeply furrowed.

How to Identify This Tree



Interesting Facts

Ginkgo is the only living species of the Ginkgophyta order, which has existed since the age of dinosaurs, and appears in the fossil record as far back as 270 million years.



Horse Chestnut

Aesculus hippocastanum (non-native)

What to Know

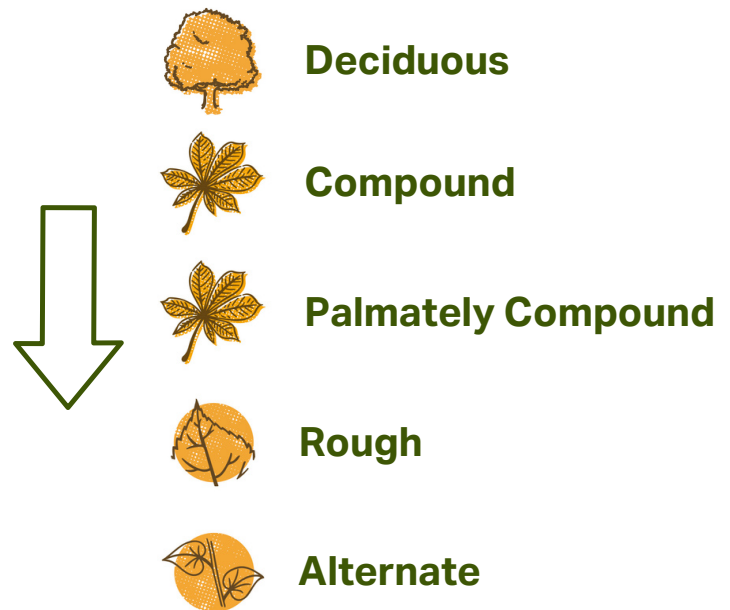
Horse Chestnut is a large deciduous tree that can grow 15 - 25 m tall. This species, which is native to southeastern Europe, is frequently planted in urban parks in North America.

It has palmately (hand-shaped or fanned) compound leaves with five to nine leaflets, arranged opposite on the branch.

It features showy, large, bell-shaped clusters of white flowers that grow 20 - 30 cm long in May. From these flowers, the tree produces round nuts encased in green, spiky husks.

Horse Chestnut's mature bark is fissured and scaly.

How to Identify This Tree



Interesting Facts

Horse Chestnut seeds, also known as "conkers," are shiny, and dark brown and grow in pairs of two inside each spiky husk. Conkers have many traditional uses in Europe, from repelling spiders to a medicinal aid for horses.

Jack Pine

Pinus banksiana (native)



What to Know

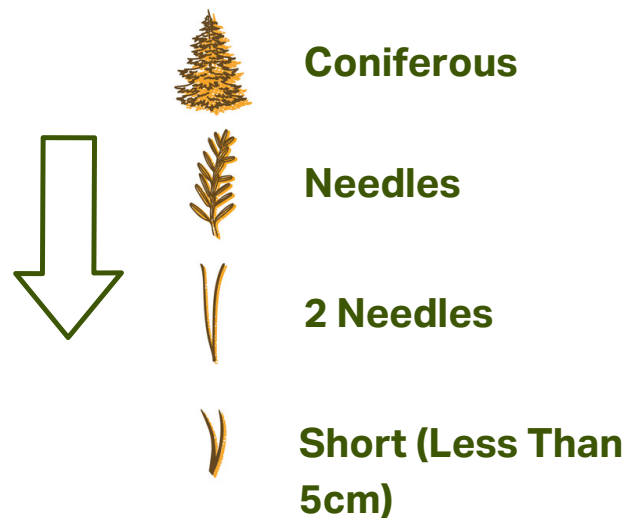
Jack Pine is a coniferous tree with a wide variation in size, from shrub-sized to 20 m tall, depending on growing conditions. It is common for Jack Pine to have an irregular truck shape.

Jack Pine leaves are small needles, two to four cm long, that grow in slightly twisted bundles of two. The needles are stiff, with a sharp tip, and slightly spread apart.

The cones are three to seven cm long and have a variety of shapes, including oblong, conical, asymmetrical, straight, or inwardly curved. They attach directly to the branch (no stalk) in clusters of two to three and may remain closed on the tree for ten - 20 years. Cones open when exposed to extreme heat, such as wildland fires.

The mature bark is dark and furrowed with thick, flaky plates.

How to Identify This Tree



Interesting Facts

Young stands of Jack Pine provide important nesting sites for birds such as the endangered Kirtland's warbler.

Kentucky Coffee Tree

Gymnocladus dioicus (native)

What to Know

The Kentucky Coffee Tree is a medium-sized deciduous tree 15 - 25 m tall. It has doubly pinnately compound leaves with three to seven pairs of branches on a sturdy central stalk. Each leaf is 30 to 90 cm long with up to 70 leaflets.

The fruits are reddish-brown, leathery, flat pods eight to 25 cm long. The mature bark is dark grey with ridges that curl outwards and its flowers, which grow in clusters, are small and greenish-white.

How to Identify This Tree



Deciduous



Compound



Pinnately Compound



Smooth



Broad



Divided 2-3 times

Interesting Facts

The Kentucky Coffee Tree is found in the deciduous forests of southern Ontario and prefers rich, open, moist lowlands. While difficult to find in the forest, the tree is commonly used for landscaping or urban planting in its native range.



Littleleaf Linden

Tilia cordata (native)

What to Know

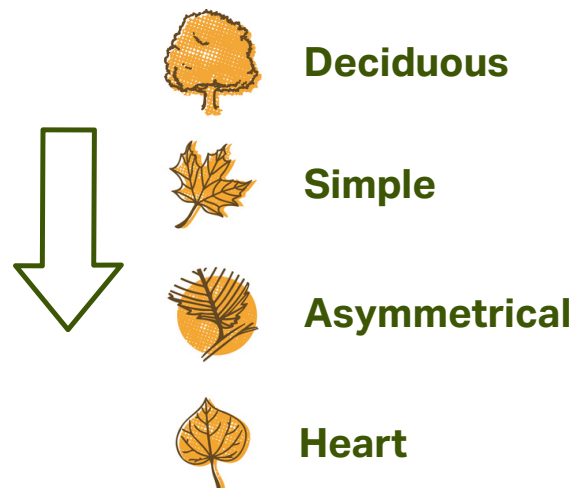
Littleleaf Linden is a medium to large deciduous tree, typically growing 20 - 40 m. While a popular choice for street plantings due to its rapid growth, dense crown, and tolerance to pollution, it is native to Europe.

Leaves are shiny and dark green on top with a paler underside. The heart-shaped leaves are slightly asymmetrical at the base and have finely toothed or rough edges.

This tree produces small, greyish to pale-yellow, nut-like fruits that hang in clusters.

Young bark is pale and smooth, changing to a dark grey-brown with ridges as the tree ages.

How to Identify This Tree



Interesting Facts

Littleleaf Linden is related to the native American Basswood tree. A mature Littleleaf Linden tree can produce up to 60,000 fragrant and nectar-rich flowers, ideal for pollinators like bees and butterflies. Despite its ability to tolerate urban conditions, this tree is sensitive to road salt and drought.



Large-Toothed Aspen

Populus grandidentata (native)

What to Know

Large-Toothed Aspen is a medium-sized deciduous tree, typically growing up to 20 m tall. It can be found through southern Ontario, north to Temiskaming Shores and Sault Ste. Marie. There is an additional population near the Ontario-Minnesota border.

Broad leaves with seven to 15 large, uneven teeth on each side of leaf. They are arranged alternately on the branch.

Flowers are long catkins, yellow-green in colour, and its mature bark is dark with deep furrows.

How to Identify This Tree



Deciduous



Simple



Alternate



Symmetrical



Rough



No Lobes



Heart



Broad



Interesting Facts

A short-lived and fast-growing species, Large-Toothed Aspen can be used to regenerate disturbed areas. Its roots hold soil in place, and the species spreads rapidly through root suckering.

Manitoba Maple

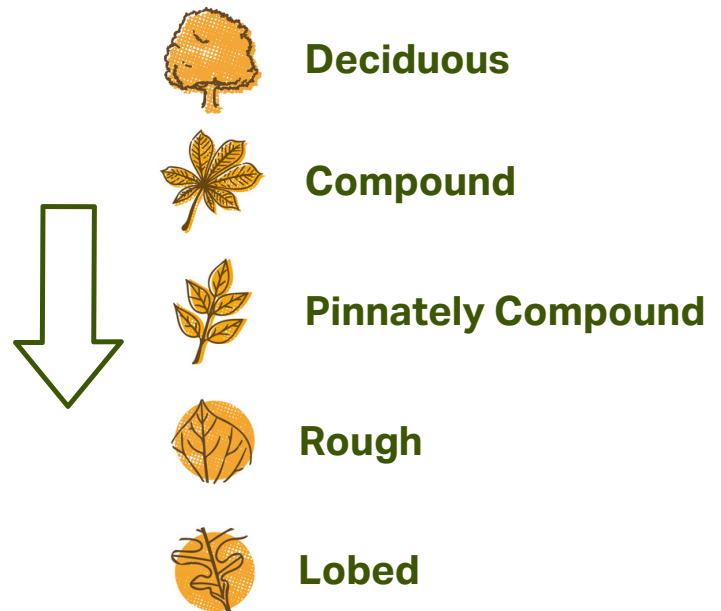
Acer negundo (native)

What to Know

Manitoba Maple is a medium-sized deciduous tree growing 10 - 20 m tall. It has pinnately compound leaves with three to five leaflets on a central stalk, five to 12 cm long. The leaflets are yellow-green with shallow lobes.

This tree produces joined pairs of winged samaras, that hang in elongated clusters. The mature bark is grey-brown with narrow ridges.

How to Identify This Tree



Interesting Facts

Manitoba Maple is the only native maple in Ontario with compound leaves, which resemble those of an ash tree. Like Sugar Maple, Manitoba Maple can be tapped for sap.

Manitoba Maple, named for being the largest native maple in the Prairies, is also known as Box Elder, Elder Maple, or Box Maple. Its range in Ontario extends into Northwest Ontario (Kenora to Thunder Bay) and can be found throughout Southern Ontario.

Northern Catalpa

Catalpa speciosa (non-native)

What to Know

Northern Catalpa is a medium-sized deciduous tree growing 15 - 30 m. It has large, heart-shaped leaves (10 - 30 cm long) that are yellow-green with a pale and hairy underside.

This tree produces striking clusters of fragrant white flowers with yellow stripes and purple spots. Fruits are distinctive, hanging bean-like pods (legumes) 25 - 60 cm long. These pods are green to dark brown and hang in groups of one to three. The mature bark is red-brown with large, irregular, thick scales.

How to Identify This Tree



Deciduous



Simple



Opposite



Symmetrical



Smooth



No Lobes



Heart



Broad



Interesting Facts

The mid-western United States is the native habitat of Northern Catalpa, and it has gained wide popularity in Ontario as an ornamental species. It lives up to 60 years and grows relatively fast. Northern Catalpa wood has been used to make fences and railroad ties.

Ohio Buckeye

Aesculus glabra (native)

What to Know

Ohio Buckeye is a medium-sized deciduous tree growing 15 - 25 m tall. Native to the Midwestern and lower Great Plains regions of the United States, it has also been found growing naturally near Lake St. Clair in southwestern Ontario. Highly tolerant of urban conditions, it is also planted in Ontario as a city tree.

Leaves are palmately (hand-shaped or fanned) compound with five to seven leaflets each. Leaves are bright green on top with pale, hairy undersides.

Seeds are encased in spiny, golden-brown husks and may occur individually or in clusters. Flowers are green-yellow in cone-shaped clusters.

Mature bark is pale brown with thick scaly plates; fissures develop along plates with age.

How to Identify This Tree



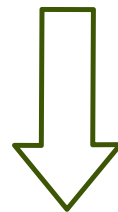
Deciduous



Compound



Palmately Compound



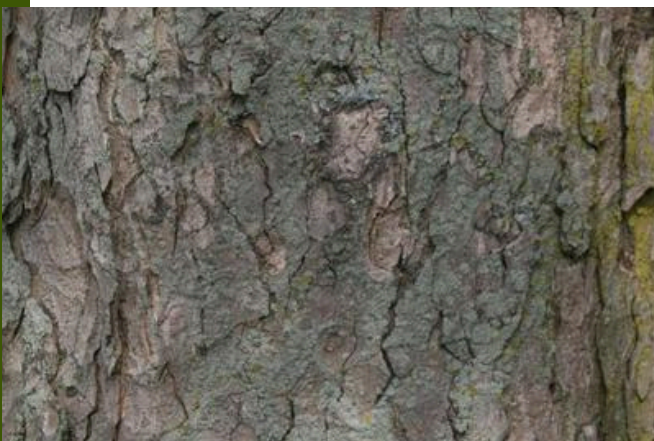
Rough



Opposite

Interesting Facts

Ohio Buckeye flowers attract pollinators; otherwise, the tree has limited wildlife value as leaves and twigs are toxic and unpalatable.



Pawpaw

Asimina triloba (native)

What to Know

Pawpaw is a small deciduous tree growing up to 10 m tall. It is native to eastern North America, but its range is restricted to the Carolinian Forest Zone in Southwestern Ontario.

Large leaves, 15 - 30 cm long, widest at the top and tapering at the base. Reddish-brown veins on the underside of leaf.

Reddish-purple bell-shaped flowers with six petals emerge in May; produces yellow-brown, cylindrical shaped fruit, that matures in October.

Mature bark thin with warty bumps.

How to Identify This Tree



Deciduous



Simple



Alternate



Symmetrical



Smooth



No Lobes



Narrow

Interesting Facts

Fruits produced by the Pawpaw are the largest of any native tree in North America. The unpleasant smell of Pawpaw flowers attracts beetle and fly pollinators.



Pin Cherry

Prunus pensylvanica (native)

What to Know

Pin Cherry is a small deciduous tree or large shrub, usually one to five m tall, although it has been recorded up to 15 m. its range extends throughout Ontario with the exception of the far north.

Long and slender leaves, eight to 15 cm; rough edges with tiny, uneven teeth.

White five-petalled flowers grow in clusters of two to seven. Bright red cherries, (six to eight mm), grow in small clusters and ripen in September-October.

Mature bark is shiny and reddish-brown with prominent orange horizontal lenticels (pores).

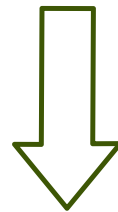
How to Identify This Tree



Deciduous



Simple



Symmetrical



Opposite



Rough



No Lobes

Interesting Facts

Pin Cherry fruits are consumed by over 25 species of birds, hence the common name "Bird Cherry".

Red Maple

Acer rubrum (native)

What to Know

Red Maple is a medium-sized deciduous tree that can grow up to 25 m tall. It is found throughout central and southern Ontario, up to the southern edge of the boreal forest.

Leaves are light green and whitish underneath, with three to five lobes separated by shallow, sharp notches (sinuses) and rough edges. Leaves turn bright red in the fall. In early spring, Red Maple produces bright red flowers weeks before its leaves.

Young bark is light grey and smooth. Mature bark becomes greyish-brown and scaly with thin plates that peel from both ends.

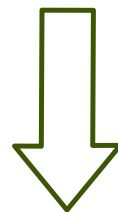
How to Identify This Tree



Deciduous



Simple



Symmetrical



Opposite



Rough



Lobed

Interesting Facts

Red Maple is a food source for deer, squirrels, and various birds. Flowering in late winter to early spring, it is also an important early food source for pollinators.

Red Oak

Quercus rubra (native)

What to Know

Red Oak is a large deciduous tree that can grow 20 - 30 m tall. Its alternate leaves are deeply to shallowly lobed, with seven to 11 lobes and V-shaped sinuses between them. On younger trees, the leaves may simply look toothed.

The flowers are yellow-green catkins. Red Oak's fruits are round, leathery acorns either single or paired, and the cap is hairless with reddish-brown scales and rounded tips. Acorns mature in their second fall season. Bark is smooth and dark grey when the tree is young, developing deep ridges with age.

How to Identify This Tree



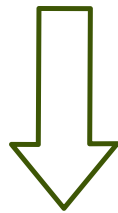
Deciduous



Simple



Symmetrical



Alternate



Rough



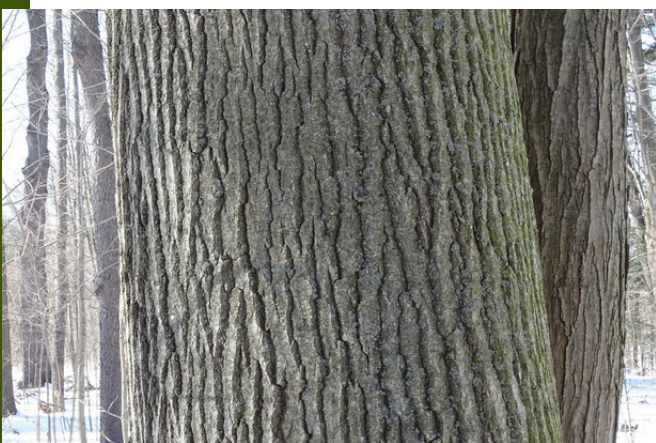
Lobed



Sinuate

Interesting Facts

Red Oak wood is incredibly porous (lack of tyloses) and can be used almost like a straw!



Red Osier Dogwood

Cornus stolonifera (native)



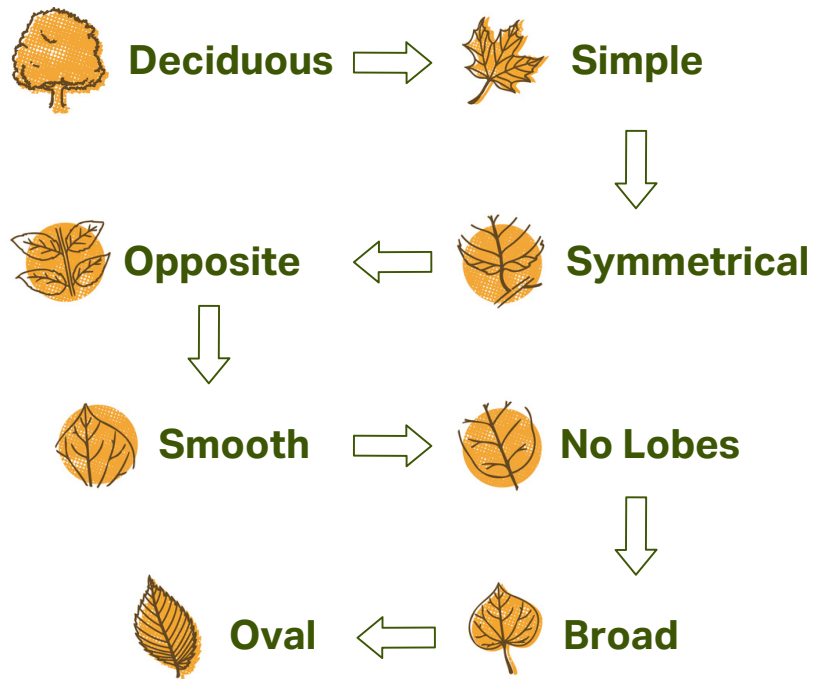
What to Know

Red Osier Dogwood is a large shrub or a small tree, one - four meters. The leaves are dark green above with a bluish-green underside and have an opposite arrangement. Veins run parallel to one another along the leaf. The leaves turn bright red or purple in the fall.

The small white flowers form clusters. The resulting fruits are round white berries about five to nine mm in diameter.

Red Osier Dogwood's bark on both the branches and twigs is a distinctive dark red.

How to Identify This Tree



Interesting Facts

Red Osier Dogwood is native throughout North America and often occurs on damp soils (although it can also be found on dry sites). Its extensive root systems stabilize waterway banks. The bark alone can identify this shrub in the winter, as it is very bright!

Red Pine

Pinus resinosa (native)

What to Know

Red Pine is a large coniferous tree that can grow up to 35 m tall. It is found across most of Ontario, from Lake Nipigon to Quebec, and south to the Great Lakes.

Its leaves are straight, long, shiny, dark green needles (10 - 12 cm long) held in bundles of two. They can be brittle and snap when bent.

The cones are small, brown, and ovoid, with no stems or prickles. They take two years to mature, and start to develop when the tree is anywhere from 15 to 50 years old.

Mature bark is consists of reddish-pink plates.

How to Identify This Tree



Coniferous



Needles



2 Needles



Long (more than 5cm)



Straight

Interesting Facts

Red Pine grows very straight, which makes it ideal for poles and posts. It can thrive in poor, rocky, and sandy soil and is one of the most commonly planted trees in Ontario. Deep and widespread roots help it withstand strong winds.

Sassafras

Sassafras albidum (native)

What to Know

Sassafras is a deciduous tree species that can grow up to 20 m tall. Its leaves are bright green and fragrant with two to three lobes. These distinct leaves are often referred to as mitten-shaped.

The flowers are small and yellow, with male and female flowers on different trees. The fruit is dark blue and berry-like, and looks like it is sitting in a cup at the tip of a long stalk. The mature bark is dark brown with corky ridges, while the tree itself has a zigzag shape.

How to Identify This Tree



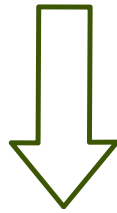
Deciduous



Simple



Symmetrical



Alternate



Smooth



Lobed



Sinuate

Interesting Facts

Sassafras is rare in Ontario, occurring only in scattered pockets in the southwestern region as far north as Toronto. When crushed or bruised, Sassafras leaves give off a spicy smell.



Shagbark Hickory

Carya ovata (native)

What to Know

Shagbark Hickory is a large deciduous tree that typically grows 20 - 30 m tall. Its leaves are yellowish-green and pinnately compound with five leaflets. The largest leaflet is at the tip of the leaf stalk, which measures 15 to 30 cm in total.

Fruits are round nuts enclosed in a greenish to dark reddish-brown husk that splits into four parts.

The mature bark is dark grey and shaggy with long, peeling plates - the feature that give this tree its name.

How to Identify This Tree



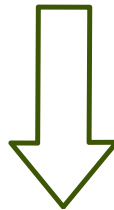
Deciduous



Compound



Pinnately compound



Rough



No lobes



Broad



Alternate

Interesting Facts

Shagbark Hickory is native to southern Ontario and can even be found along the St. Lawrence River and into Quebec. Its nuts are an important food source for wildlife.

Silver Maple

Acer saccharinum (native)

What to Know

Silver Maple is a large deciduous tree that can grow to be 35 m tall. Its leaves are light green above and silvery-white underneath, with five to seven palmate lobes deeply separated by narrow sinuses. Leaves have coarse teeth.

The female flowers are reddish and bunched on the twig, while the male flowers are yellowish green and drooping. Both flowers can be found on the same tree. The resulting fruits are yellow-green to brown pairs of winged keys (samaras) that hang in clusters. The young bark is smooth and grey, while its mature bark is grey and shaggy with thin strips that peel from both ends.

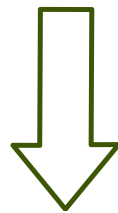
How to Identify This Tree



Deciduous



Simple



Symmetrical



Opposite



Rough



Lobed

Interesting Facts

Silver Maple is common in southern and central Ontario. It prefers moist sites and is moderately shade-tolerant, but prefers full sun.



Smooth Serviceberry

Amelanchier laevis (native)

What to Know

Smooth Serviceberry is a small deciduous tree that typically grows nine to 12 m tall. It can be found growing in southern Ontario, north to Lake Superior.

Its leaves are alternate, simple, and hairless, with small (fine) teeth. Leaves are three to eight cm long and oval-shaped.

The flowers are white and one to two cm long, with five sepals attached to the stem with a bell-shaped structure. Its fruits are reddish purple to black and fleshy.

The bark is thin, smooth, and grey, and the trees themselves are often multi-stemmed.

How to Identify This Tree



Deciduous



Simple



Alternate



Symmetrical



Rough



No lobes



Oval



Broad

Interesting Facts

Smooth Serviceberry is a popular choice for gardens and parks because of its flowers and bird-attracting fruits. However, Serviceberries can be difficult to distinguish from one another, as different species will often hybridize.

Staghorn Sumac

Rhus typhina (native)



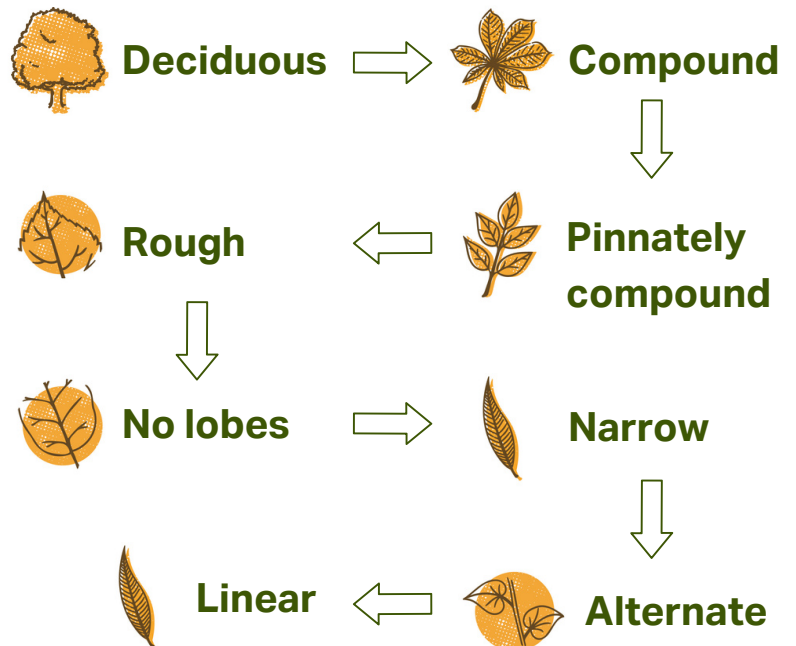
What to Know

Staghorn Sumac is a large shrub or small deciduous tree, typically growing five m tall. Its leaves are dark green and pinnately compound with 11 - 31 leaflets arranged alternately. Edges of leaflets are rough or toothed. The central stalks of each leaf are reddish and hairy.

The flowers are somewhat indistinct, but the fruits are reddish and fuzzy, arranged in cone-shaped clusters at branch tips.

Young bark is yellowish-brown with lenticels (pores), while the mature bark is scaly.

How to Identify This Tree



Interesting Facts

Found across southeastern Canada, these shrubs tend to form dense thickets that provide food and shelter for wildlife. The fruit, bark and leaves of Staghorn Sumac have been used in leather tanning.

Sugar Maple

Acer saccharum (native)

What to Know

Sugar Maple is a large deciduous tree reaching up to 35 m tall, that can be found throughout central and southern Ontario.

Leaves are simple, opposite, and paler on the hairless underside. Leaves have five lobes and rounded sinuses.

The fruits of this tree are green or brown winged keys (samaras). Mature Sugar Maple bark is grey and irregularly ridged.

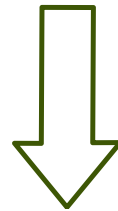
How to Identify This Tree



Deciduous



Simple



Symmetrical



Opposite



Rough



Lobed



Interesting Facts

Sugar Maple is Canada's national tree and has the sweetest sap of all maples, making it ideal for maple syrup production. It takes 40 L of sap to make 1 L of syrup.

The leaf of the Sugar Maple inspired the maple leaf found on Canada's national flag.

Striped Maple

Acer pensylvanicum (native)

What to Know

Striped Maple is a large shrub or small deciduous tree up to 10 m tall. Leaves are typically large, yellowish-green, and hairless with three shallow lobes and fine teeth.

Striped Maple flowers are bright greenish-yellow with five petals arranged in long clusters. The fruits are green pairs of winged keys (samaras).

Striped Maple bark is easily identifiable by its vertical stripes.

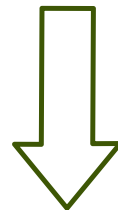
How to Identify This Tree



Deciduous



Simple



Symmetrical



Opposite



Rough



Lobed

Interesting Facts

Striped Maple is found in the understory of forests throughout central Ontario, from Toronto east to Ottawa and north to Sault Ste Marie. They have some of the largest leaves of any native maple, perfect for catching sunlight under the canopy of larger trees.



Tamarack

Larix laricina (native)

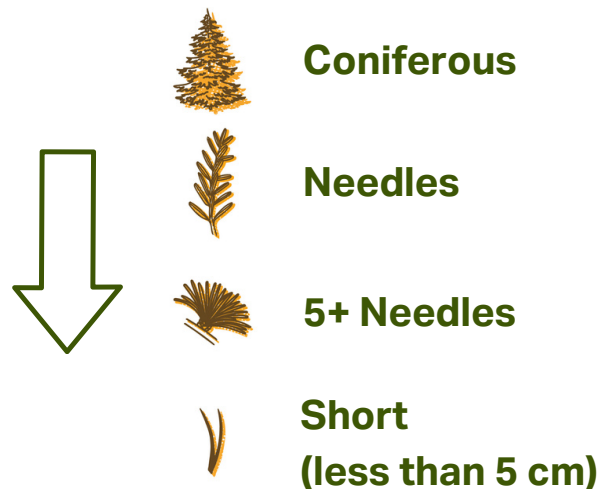
What to Know

Tamarack is a medium-sized coniferous tree, typically reaching 10 - 20 m. Although it is a coniferous species, it sheds its needles each fall. The leaves are soft, bluish-green deciduous needles clustered in groups of 15 - 60.

Male and female cones grow on the same tree; male cones are small and yellow while female cones are pale brown and one to two cm long at maturity.

Young bark is grey and smooth, while mature bark is a light reddish-brown with narrow, peeling scales.

How to Identify This Tree



Interesting Facts

Tamarack bark has traditionally been used for tanning leather due to its high tannin content. This species is widespread in Canada and the United States and tolerates many environments, including cold, nutrient-poor areas. Tamarack is often confused with European Larch, which has larger cones.



Tulip Tree

Liriodendron tulipifera (native)

What to Know

Tulip Trees are fast-growing deciduous trees capable of reaching 35 m. Their leaves are large and bright green with squared, notched tips. Each leaf has two to three lobes.

The flowers are tulip-shaped and showy with greenish-yellow petals and orange bases. The resulting seeds are dry green or yellow samaras that are held in a cone-like cluster. Mature bark is ash-grey to brown with rounded ridges.

How to Identify This Tree



Deciduous



Simple



Symmetrical



Alternate



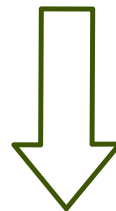
Smooth



Lobed



Palmate



Interesting Facts

Tulip Trees only grow in a few parts of Ontario: the south shore of Lake Huron, the north shore of Lake Erie, and the Niagara Peninsula. The wood is used in furniture and construction, while the nectar, seeds, and young leaves are important food sources for small wildlife.



Yellow Birch

Betula alleghaniensis (native)



What to Know

Yellow Birch is a medium-sized deciduous tree, growing up to 25 m tall. Yellow Birch can be found across southern and central Ontario.

Leaves are simple, toothed, yellow-green, and alternately arranged on the twig. They have 9 - 11 prominent, straight veins.

The flowers are tiny, with male catkins that sway in the breeze, and the fruits are small nuts that are held in female catkins.

The young bark is a shiny reddish brown. At maturity it is yellow to bronze and peels in papery shreds.

How to Identify This Tree



Deciduous



Simple



Alternate



Symmetrical



Rough



No lobes



Oval



Broad

Interesting Facts

Yellow Birch is named for its bark, which is a golden yellow for much of its life. Yellow Birch's valuable wood is used for furniture, flooring, doors, and tool handles.

White Ash

Fraxinus americana (native)



What to Know

White Ash is a deciduous tree and the largest native ash species in Ontario, growing up to 30 m tall. Its leaves are pinnately compound, divided into five to seven leaflets. The compound leaves are dark green on top with smooth, oblong leaflets.

Flowers are purple to yellow with no petals, with male and female flowers on separate trees. Fruits are pale green to yellow nutlets (samaras) with a long wing. White Ash's mature bark is greyish with ridges that form a diamond-shaped pattern.

How to Identify This Tree



Deciduous



Compound



Pinnately Compound



Smooth



Narrow



Opposite



Symmetrical

Interesting Facts

The wood of White Ash is tough and shock-resistant, and has historically been used to make hockey sticks, baseball bats, and tennis rackets. Ash populations in Ontario, including White Ash, are threatened by the Emerald Ash Borer, an invasive species.

White Birch

Betula papyrifera (native)

What to Know

White Birch, also known as Paper Birch, is a medium-sized, up to 25 m tall, with toothed, heart-shaped leaves that are dull green. The leaf has straight veins and is widest below the middle.

Flowers are tiny, with male catkins that sway in the breeze to release pollen in spring. Fruits are small, broad-winged nutlets held in female catkins.

Young bark is reddish and smooth with horizontal lenticels (pores). When mature, it is white and peels in papery shreds.

How to Identify This Tree



Deciduous



Simple



Alternate



Symmetrical



Rough



No lobes



Heart



Broad



Interesting Facts

White Birch trees are sun-loving and prefer clearings, disturbed sites, and forest edges. Traditionally, its bark has been used to make birch-bark canoes, a practice that requires considerable skill to avoid fatally damaging the tree during bark removal.

White Oak

Quercus alba (native)

What to Know

White Oak is a large deciduous tree native to eastern and central North America that can grow over 35 m tall. It has simple, alternate leaves that are bright green, 10 - 20 cm long, with distinct smooth lobes.

The flowers are held in green catkins, with male and female flowers found on the same tree. The fruits are acorns found in singles or pairs, with a cap covered in knobby scales. White Oak's mature bark is grey, corky, and ridged.

How to Identify This Tree



Deciduous



Simple



Symmetrical



Alternate



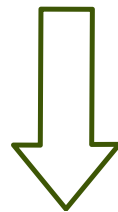
Smooth



Lobed



Sinuate



Interesting Facts

White Oak is one of the the most important hardwoods, valued for its strong, elastic wood, which is well suited for barrels and boat hulls. White Oak acorns are an essential food source for many animals.

White Willow

Salix alba (non-native)

What to Know

White Willow is a medium to large deciduous tree 10 - 30 m tall, native to Europe and western Asia. The leaves are bright to greyish green above with a waxy underside. Leaves are tapered at both ends and finely toothed.

Flowers are produced in catkins, with seeds later dispersed from capsules. White Willow's mature bark is grey-brown and deeply fissured.

How to Identify This Tree



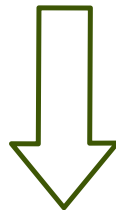
Deciduous



Simple



Symmetrical



Alternate



Rough



No lobes



Narrow

Interesting Facts

White Willow readily hybridizes with other willow species, such as Weeping Willow. It is a fast-growing but relatively short-lived tree, as it is highly susceptible to many diseases.

