

TREE IDENTIFICATION KEY

BEGIN HERE:

Tree has needles useuse **CONIFEROUS TREE KEY**

Tree has broad leavesuse **DECIDUOUS TREE KEY**

CONIFEROUS TREE KEY

1. Needles in bundles or groups (2)
1. Needles single or flattened and scaly (3)
 2. Needles in clusters of more than 5 needles **Tamarack* (*Larix laricina*)**
 2. Needles 2 to 5 per bundle: Pine species (see a-c below)

- a. Five needles per bundle **White Pine (*Pinus strobus*)**
 - b. Needles in pairs, 3 to 4 inches long **Red Pine (*Pinus resinosa*)**
 - c. Needles in pairs, under 2 inches long,
bark dark gray **Jack Pine (*Pinus banksiana*)**
3. Needles scaly and flattened (4)
3. Needles single (5)
 4. Has cones, scales flat, branches fan-like **Northern White Cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*)**
 4. Has berries, may have scaly and prickly needles on same
tree, scales rounded **Eastern Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*)**
5. Needles flat (6)
5. Needles square, 4-sided, stiff, sharp: Spruce species (see a-b below)

- a. Needles 1/3 to 3/4 inch long, twigs hairless **White Spruce (*Picea glauca*)**
 - b. Needles 1/3 to 3/4 inch long, twigs have
hair, grows in wet areas **Black Spruce (*Picea mariana*)**
6. Needles 1/2 inch long with short petiole **Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*)**
6. Needles 3/4 inch to 1 1/4 inches long, no petiole,
bubbles in bark **Balsam Fir (*Abies balsamea*)**

*Note: A tamarack is a deciduous conifer.

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*)**

TREE IDENTIFICATION KEY

DECIDUOUS TREE KEY

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)**