

# TREE IDENTIFICATION KEY

Tree has needles use.....use CONIFEROUS TREE KEY

Tree has broad leaves .....use 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*)



# 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*)

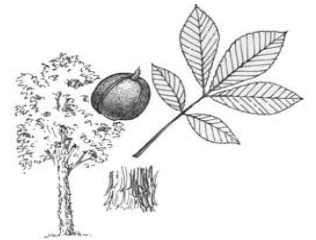
6. Leaflets pointed (7)

7. Leaf 6 to 8 inches long .....Mountain Ash (*Sorbus americana*)

7. Leaf 8 to 24 inches long ..... Butternut (*Juglans cinerea*).

8. Leaves not lobed (9) or Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*)

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, sinuses extend halfway to mid-vein, leaves hairless, dull green .....Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*)

e. Pointed lobes, deep sinuses extend 3/4 of the way to mid-vein, leaves hairless, bright green and shiny....Northern Pin Oak (*Quercus ellipsoidalis*)



