

Key to Common Angiosperm Trees

1.	a. Leaves simple	Go to 2
	b. Leaves compound	Go to 38
2.	a. Leaves opposite or whorled	Go to 3
	b. Leaves alternate	Go to 8
3.	a. Leaves palmately lobed and veined	Go to 4
	b. Leaves not lobed	Go to 6
4.	a. Leaf margin with not more than 12 points on each side	Go to 5
	b. Leaf margin with 20 or more points on each half	Go to 7
5.	a. Juice of petiole milky; blade usually with 7 main veins; underside of leaf not light green; bark of trunk black and regular	Norway Maple <i>Acer platanoides</i>
	b. Juice not milky; blade usually with 5 main veins; underside of leaf light green; bark gray and irregular on trunk	Sugar Maple <i>Acer saccharum</i>
6.	a. Leaves opposite, clustered at the ends of branches, 2-6 inches long, petioles short; fruits are berries	Flowering Dogwood <i>Cornus florida</i>
	b. Leaves opposite or whorled, 4-12 inches long, heart-shaped; fruits are long and slender pods	Catalpa <i>Catalpa</i> spp.
7.	a. Sinuses between lobes extending at least halfway to base of leaf blade; leaves whitened beneath	Silver Maple <i>Acer saccharinum</i>
	b. Sinuses between lobes extending less than halfway to base of leaf blade; leaves light green beneath but not strongly whitened	Red Maple <i>Acer rubrum</i>
8.	a. Branches armed with stiff, sharp thorns	Go to 9
	b. Branches not armed	Go to 10
9.	a. Margins of leaves entire; fruit large, orange-like, green	Osage Orange <i>Maclura pomifera</i>
	b. Margins of leaves toothed; fruit small, apple-like	Hawthorne or Thornapple <i>Crataegus</i> spp.
10.	a. Margins of leaves entire, not toothed or lobed	Go to 11
	b. Margins of leaves toothed or lobed	Go to 13
11.	a. Leaves rounded or heart-shaped; fruit a legume	Redbud or Judas Tree <i>Cercis canadensis</i>
	b. Leaves oval or elliptical; fruit not a legume	Go to 12
12.	a. Leaves leathery, 2 to 3 ½ times longer than broad; fruit an acorn	Shingle Oak <i>Quercus imbricaria</i>
	b. Leaves not leathery, less than twice as long as broad; fruit a berry (Tree usually bears lobed leaves as well)	Sassafras <i>Sassafras albidum</i>
13.	a. Margins of leaves lobed, sometimes both toothed and lobed	Go to 14
	b. Margins of leaves toothed but not lobed	Go to 23

14.	a. Leaves pinnately lobed; twigs typically with several buds clustered at the tips; fruits acorns	Go to 15
	b. Leaves variously lobed; twigs typically with one bud at the tip; fruits not acorns	Go to 19
15.	a. Lobes of leaves rounded, not bristle-tipped	Go to 16
	b. Lobes of leaves tipped by a distinct bristle	Go to 17
16.	a. Cup of acorn fringed with coarse hairs; leaves usually cut nearly to the midrib by opposite sinuses near the middle	Bur Oak <i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>
	b. Cup of acorn not fringed with hairs; leaves with sinuses more shallow	White Oak <i>Quercus alba</i>
17.	a. Leaves with brownish hairs in the angles of the veins on the lower surface and along the petioles; cup enclosing 1/3 to 1/2 of the acorn	Black Oak <i>Quercus velutina</i>
	b. Leaves with few or no hairs on petioles and the undersurfaces of the blades; cup enclosing less than 1/3 of the acorn	Go to 18
18.	a. Nut about 1/2 inch long; small tree with lower branches drooping nearly to ground	Pin Oak <i>Quercus palustris</i>
	b. Nut about 1 inch long; tree larger; branches not drooping to the ground	Red Oak <i>Quercus rubra</i>
19.	a. Leaf lobes saw-toothed; sap milky	Mulberry <i>Morus rubra</i>
	b. Leaf lobes not saw-toothed; sap not milky	Go to 20
20.	a. Leaf lobes entire or with occasional teeth	Go to 21
	b. Leaf lobes coarsely wavy-toothed	Go to 22
21.	a. Petioles 4-6 inches long when mature; blades 4 lobed (rarely toothed)	Tulip Tree <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>
	b. Petioles about 1-3 inches long; blades with 2-3 lobes	Sassafras <i>Sassafras albidum</i>
22.	a. Petioles laterally flattened; leaves strongly whitened beneath	White Poplar <i>Populus alba</i>
	b. Petioles not laterally flattened; leaves pale green beneath	Sycamore <i>Platanus occidentalis</i>
23.	a. Margins of leaves once-toothed	Go to 24
	b. Margins doubly-toothed	Go to 34
24.	a. Bases of leaf blades definitely oblique	Go to 25
	b. Bases of leaf blades nearly symmetrical	Go to 26
25.	a. Leaf blades more than 3 inches broad; petioles typically more than 2 inches long; leaves often heart-shaped	Linden or Basswood <i>Tilia Americana</i>
	b. Leaf blades less than 2 inches broad; petioles typically less than 1 inch long	Hackberry <i>Celtis occidentalis</i>

26.	a. Petioles laterally compressed	Go to 27
	b. Petioles not laterally compressed	Go to 31
27.	a. Teeth of leaf margins coarse, 2-5 per inch	Go to 28
	b. Teeth of margins fine, 6-many per inch	Go to 29
28.	a. Petioles and undersides of leaves whitened and fuzzy	White Poplar <i>Populus alba</i>
	b. Petioles and leaf blades without hairs, light green	Large-toothed Aspen <i>Populus grandidentata</i>
29.	a. Leaves ovate to nearly circular in shape	Trembling Aspen <i>Populus tremuloides</i>
	b. Leaves essentially triangular or rhomboidal in shape	Go to 30
30.	a. Petioles 2-4 inches long; blades typically triangular, longer than broad; crown, broad, open	Cottonwood <i>Populus deltoides</i>
	b. Petioles 1-2 inches long; blades triangular or rhomboidal, often broader than long; crown narrow, spire-like	Lombardy Poplar <i>Populus nigra var. italica</i>
31.	a. Leaf blades typically 3 or more times as long as broad; twigs with scattered lenticels; buds covered by single bud scale	Willow <i>Salix</i> spp.
	b. Leaf blades typically not more than twice as long as broad, or if longer, then with abundant conspicuous lenticels on twigs and branches; buds with two or more scales	Go to 32
32.	a. Leaf margins coarsely-toothed, 2-5 per inch	American Beech <i>Fagus grandifolia</i>
	b. Leaf margins finely-toothed, 5-many per inch	Go to 33
33.	a. Margins very fine-toothed; petioles typically less than 1 inch long; twigs greenish or reddish-brown	Wild Cherry <i>Prunus</i> spp.
	b. Margins with 5-8 teeth per inch; petioles typically 1-2 inches long; twigs greenish becoming tan or light brown	Mulberry <i>Morus rubra</i>
34.	a. Bases of leaf blade definitely oblique	Go to 35
	b. Bases of leaf blades essentially symmetrical	Go to 37
35.	a. Mature leaves 1 ½ to 3 ½ inches long; buds nearly spherical	Chinese Elm <i>Ulmus pumila</i>
	b. Mature leaves usually more than 3 ½ inches long; buds ovate, more pointed	Go to 36
36.	a. Small tree with drooping branches; petioles very short, with blades broadest near apex	Camperdown Elm <i>Ulmus glabra</i>
	b. Large tree with ascending branches; petioles ¼ to ½ inches; blades broadest near middle	American Elm <i>Ulmus Americana</i>
37.	a. Leaves thin, dull green above; trunk of tree smooth, sinuous; fruits with leaf-like bracts	Blue Beech <i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>
	b. Leaves thick, typically shiny above; trunk with bark in papery white layers; fruits with small scale-like bracts	Paper Birch <i>Betula papyrifera</i>

38.	a. Leaves palmately compound	Go to 39
	b. Leaves pinnately compound	Go to 40
39.	a. Leaflets usually seven; foliage not ill-smelling when bruised	Horse Chestnut <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>
	b. Leaflets usually five; foliage ill-smelling when bruised	Ohio Buckeye <i>Aesculus glabra</i>
40.	a. Leaves once compound	Go to 41
	b. Leaves twice compound	Go to 51
41.	a. Leaves alternate	Go to 42
	b. Leaves opposite	Go to 50
42.	a. Trees usually armed with spines or thorns; fruits are legumes	Go to 43
	b. Trees unarmed	Go to 44
43.	a. Small branches typically armed with short paired spines at base of petioles; fruits 3-5 inches long	Black Locust <i>Robinia pseudo-acacia</i>
	b. Small branches unarmed, trunk armed with stout spines; fruits 10-14 inches long	Honey Locust <i>Gleditsia tricanthos</i>
44.	a. Leaflets entire, ½ to 1 ½ inches broad; fruits are legumes 3-5 inches long	Black Locust <i>Robinia pseudo-acacia</i>
	b. Leaflets toothed at least at base	Go to 45
45.	a. Leaflets with only a few coarse glandular teeth at bases	Tree of Heaven <i>Ailanthus glandulosa</i>
	b. Leaflet margins toothed for nearly their entire length	Go to 46
46.	a. Mature upper leaflets less than 1 inch broad	Go to 47
	b. Mature upper leaflets more than 1 inch broad	Go to 48
47.	a. Leaflets with prominent sharp teeth; fruits red-orange, small, apple-like	Mountain Ash <i>Sorbus Americana</i>
	b. Leaflets with small rounded teeth; fruits legumes 8-14 inches long	Honey Locust <i>Gleditsia tricanthos</i>
48.	a. Leaflets 5-11 in number	Hickory <i>Carya</i> spp.
	b. Leaflets 11-25 in number	Go to 49
49.	a. Single terminal leaflet usually present; fruit elongate, sticky, downy	Butternut <i>Juglans inera</i>
	b. No single terminal leaflet usually present; fruit globose, not sticky, downy	Black Walnut <i>Juglans nigra</i>
50.	a. Leaflets 3-5 (rarely 7); fruits pairs samara	Box Elder <i>Acer negundo</i>
	b. Leaflets 7-11 (rarely 5); fruits single samara	Ash <i>Fraxinus</i> spp.
51.	a. Trunk usually armed with stout branched spines; leaflets ¾ to 2 inches long. (Typically with once-compound leaves as well)	Honey Locust <i>Gleditsia tricanthos</i>
	b. Trunk unarmed; leaflets 2 to 2 ½ inches long	Kentucky Coffee Tree <i>Gymnocladus dioica</i>