

Key to the Identification of Trees and Shrubs Common to Allegany County

(most ornamental species are not included)

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(clickable version with images at <http://people.alfred.edu/~emmons/treekey/title%20page.php>)

- 1a. Leaves are needle-like, scalelike, or narrowly flattened, less than 3 mm wide **go to 2**
- 2a. Leaves scalelike or narrowly triangular and pointed **go to 3**
- 3a. Twigs are flattened and the seeds are in a small tan cone
Eastern white cedar *Thuja occidentalis*
- 3b. Twigs are not flattened and the seeds are in a berry-like structure **go to 4**
- 4a. Leaves are narrowly triangular or pointed **Common Juniper *Juniperus communis***
- 4b. Leaves are scalelike (not pointed) **Eastern Red cedar *Juniperus virginiana***
- 2b. Leaves needle-like or narrow and flattened **go to 5**
- 5a. Needles are in bundles (fascicles) of two or more **go to 6**
- 6a. Needles are in groups of 2 to 5; usually with a thin sheath at the base **go to 7**
- 7a. Needles are slender; 5 per fascicle; cones are slender and flexible
Eastern White Pine *Pinus strobus*
- 7b. Needles are 2 per fascicle; cones are rigid **go to 8**
- 8a. Needles are generally less than 3 inches long, twisted **Scotch Pine *Pinus sylvestris***
- 8b. Needles are more than 4 inches long, not twisted **Red Pine *Pinus resinosa***
- 6b. Bundles contain more than five needles and they are deciduous
Larch or Tamarack *Larix laricina* or *L. decidua*
- 5b. Needles are produced singly on the stem **go to 9**
- 9a. Needles are somewhat 4-sided, not flattened **go to 10**
- 10a. Cones are 2.5 to 7 inches long; flexible scales **go to 11**
- 11a. Branches are horizontal to drooping; needles pungent when crushed
Colorado Blue Spruce *Picea pungens*
- 11b. Branches with tips upturned; not pungent when crushed
Norway Spruce *Picea abies*
- 10b. Cones are 1 - 2.5 inches long **Red Spruce *Picea rubens***
- 9b. Needles are flattened **go to 12**
- 12a. Needles are abruptly narrowed onto short stalk; white lines on under surface; cones are terminal **Eastern Hemlock *Tsuga canadensis***
- 12b. Needles are not abruptly narrowed onto short stalks; cones on upper side of branches
Balsam Fir *Abies balsamea*

- 1b. Leaves are broad, not needle-like or scale-like **go to 13**
- 13a. Leaves opposite **go to 14**
- 14a. Leaves simple **go to 15**
- 15a. Small tree or shrub **go to 16**
- 16a. Leaf margins entire, not lobed or toothed **go to 17**
- 17a. Leaves heart-shaped **Common Lilac** *Syringa vulgaris*
- 17b. Leaves not heart-shaped **go to 18**
- 18a. Veins follow leaf margins **Dogwoods** *Cornus spp.*
- 18b. Veins do not follow leaf margins **Honeysuckles** *Lonicera spp.*
- 16b. Leaves toothed or lobed **go to 19**
- 19 a. Leaves toothed, twigs ending in sharp spines
Common Buckthorn *Rhamnus cathartica*
- 19b. Leaves lobed **Striped Maple** *Acer pensylvanicum*
- 15b. Large trees **go to 20**
- 20a. Leaves with 3-lobes, whitish on under surface **Red Maple** *Acer rubrum*
- 20b. Leaves with 5 deep pointed lobes, pale green on under surface **go to 21**
- 21a. Leaf stalk exudes milky juice when broken **Norway Maple** *Acer platanoides*
- 21b. Leaf stalk without milky juice **Sugar Maple** *Acer saccharum*
- 14b. Leaves compound **go to 22**
- 22a. Leaves pinnately compound **go to 23**
- 23a. Leaves with whitish lower surface, habitat upland forest
White Ash *Fraxinus americana*
- 23b. Leaves shiny green above, green or pale and slightly hairy below, habitat stream bank or flood plain **Green Ash** *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*
- 22b. Leaves fan-compound **Horsechestnut** *Aesculus hippocastanum*
- 13b. Leaves alternate **go to 24**
- 24a. Leaves Simple **go to 25**
- 25a. Thorny Plants **go to 26**
- 26a. Thorns without buds or leaves, mostly over 1" long **Hawthorns** *Crataegus spp.*
- 26b. Thorns equipped with buds or leaves **Crabapple** *Pyrus coronaria*
- 25b. Thornless plants **go to 27**
- 27a. Some or all leaves lobed **go to 28**
- 28a. Leaves palmately-lobed **go to 29**
- 29a. Margins of lobes entire, 3-4 lobed, leaves notched at tip
Tulip Tree *Liriodendron tulipifera*
- 29b. Margins of lobes toothed, leaves not notched
Sycamore *Plantanus occidentalis*
- 28b. Leaves pinnately-lobed, with single midvein, other veins more or less at right angles to midvein **Oaks** **go to 30**
- 30a. Lobes with bristle tips **Red Oak** *Quercus rubra*
- 30b. Lobes rounded, not bristle-tipped **White Oak** *Quercus alba*
- 27b. Leaves not lobed **go to 31**
- 31a. Margins of leaves not toothed or wavy **go to 32**
- 32a. Large tree **Cucumber Tree** *Magnolia acuminata*
- 32b. Shrub **Late low Blueberry** *Vaccinium angustifolium*

- 31b. Margins of leaves toothed, serrate or wavy **go to 33**
- 33a. Margins of leaves wavy, plant a shrub
Common Witch Hazel *Hamamelis virginiana*
- 33b. Margins of leaves toothed or serrate **go to 34**
- 34a. Margins of leaves singly toothed or serrate **go to 35**
- 35a. Teeth or Serrations coarse **go to 36**
- 36a. Leaves heart-shaped or triangular **go to 37**
- 37a. Leaves heart-shaped **Basswood *Tilia americana***
- 37b. Leaves triangular; flattened petioles **Poplars *Populus spp.***
- 36b. Leaves elongated or ovate **go to 38**
- 38a. Leaves elongated, buds blunt, bark dark
American chestnut *Castanea dentata*
- 38b. Leaves ovate, slender buds, smooth grey bark
American Beech *Fagus grandifolia*
- 35b. Serrations fine **go to 39**
- 39a. Leaves ovate, bark with dark grey vertical stripes
June berry, Service berry, Shadbush *Amelanchier laevis*
- 39b. Leaves linear or lanceolate **go to 40**
- 40a. Leaves linear or hairy **go to 41**
- 41a. Leaves hairy beneath **go to 42**
- 42a. Stipules often large; leaves toothed mostly above the middle **Pussy Willow *Salix discolor***
- 42b. Stipules small or lacking; leaves toothed to the base
Weeping Willow *Salix babylonica*
- 41b. Leaves not hairy beneath **go to 43**
- 43a. Leaf tips pointed; stipules conspicuous
Black Willow *Salix nigra*
- 43b. Leaf tips not pointed; stipules small or lacking
White Willow *Salix alba*
- 40b. Lanceolate leaves **go to 44**
- 44a. Tufts of red or white hairs along mid-rib
Black Cherry *Prunus serotina*
- 44b. No hairs along mid-rib
Pin Cherry *Prunus pensylvanica*
- 34b. Margins of leaves doubly serrate **go to 45**
- 45a. Leaves triangular **White (gray) Birch *Betula populifolia***
- 45b. Leaves ovate **go to 46**
- 46a. Base of leaves oblique **Slippery Elm *Ulmus rubra***
- 46b. Base of leaves not oblique **go to 47**
- 47a. Twigs with wintergreen flavor **go to 48**
- 48a. Leaves short-pointed, rounded at base, bark on trunk shiny yellowish, peeling, hairy twigs
Yellow Birch *Betula alleghaniensis*

- 48b. Leaves long-pointed, often notched at base, bark on trunk black, not papery, twigs not hairy
Sweet Birch, *Betula lenta*
- 47b. Twigs without wintergreen flavor **go to 49**
- 49a. Bark smooth, light gray
American Hornbeam (Blue Beech) *Carpinus caroliniana*
- 49b. Bark scaly, scales easily rubbed off
Eastern Hop Hornbeam (Ironwood) *Ostrya virginiana*
- 24b. Leaves Compound **go to 50**
- 50a. Margins of leaflets entire **Black Locust *Robinia pseudoacacia***
- 50b. Margins of leaflets toothed (serrate) **go to 51**
- 51a. Leaflets 5-11 (Hickories) **go to 52**
- 52a. Leaflets 5-7, with upper 3 largest **Shagbark Hickory *Carya ovata***
- 52b. Leaflets 7-11, long narrow, sharp-pointed **Bitternut Hickory *Carya cordiformis***
- 51b. Leaflets 11-23 **go to 53**
- 53a. Buds, fruit and young twigs and leaves hairy, small trees
Staghorn Sumac *Rhus typhina*
- 53b. Buds, twigs, leaves not hairy, large trees (Walnuts) **Butternut *Juglans cinerea***