



C. Leaves Alternate and Simple (Continued)



BEECH
Fagus grandifolia

Leaves 3-6" long, shiny, pointed, tapered base, straight veined, each vein ending in a sharp tooth on margin; seeds edible, contained in a spiny bur; bark silver-gray, smooth.



WHITE OAK

Quercus alba

Leaves 5-9" long, with 5-9 rounded or wavy lobes, and shallow or deep rounded spaces in between; acorn covered one-third or less by cup; bark ash-gray to light brown, flaky.



BUR OAK

Quercus macrocarpa

Leaves 6-12" long, lobes rounded, upper half of leaf broad, deeply cut near middle; acorn covered one-half or more by bur-fringed cup; bark brown or gray with long vertical ridges.



RED OAK

Quercus rubra

Leaves 5-9" long, dull, lobes bristle-tipped, generally extending about half way to center; acorn covered one-quarter or less by shallow cup; bark brown to black, ridges flattened, smooth on upper trunk, inner bark pink.



BLACK OAK

Quercus velutina

Leaves 5-7" long, shiny, lobes bristle-tipped, variable in length, but usually extending more than half way to center; acorn covered about one-third by loose-scaled cup, bark black, ridges rough, rounded; inner bark yellow.



PIN OAK

Quercus palustris

Leaves 3-6" long, shiny, lobes bristle-tipped, variable in length, often extending nearly to center; acorn enclosed only at base by flat cup; bark black, shallowly grooved or smooth; branches slender, lower ones horizontal or drooping.

D. Leaves Alternate and Compound

SHAGBARK HICKORY



Carya ovata

Leaves composed mostly of 5 tapered, finely toothed leaflets, the three upper ones largest; fruit 1-2" in diameter, husk thick, separating into 4 sections, nut edible; bark light gray, with loosely attached outcurving stripes.

BITTERNUT HICKORY



Carya cordiformis

Leaves composed of 7-9 tapered, finely toothed leaflets, more or less equal in size; fruit about 1" in diameter, husk thin, opening only half way, nut bitter, bark gray, tight, with narrow, flat interlacing ridges.

BLACK WALNUT



Juglans nigra

Leaves 1-2" long, composed of 15-23 finely toothed leaflets; fruit 1 1/2-2" in diameter, containing an edible nut; bark with interlacing, rounded ridges, deep brown, chocolate brown when shaved.

BLACK LOCUST



Robinia pseudoacacia

Leaves composed of 7-19 oblong, blunt, smooth margined leaflets; twigs with short prickles; flowers white, fragrant, in drooping clusters; seeds in short, flat pods; bark thick, coarse, dark reddish brown.

HONEY LOCUST



Gleditsia triacanthos

Leaves often branched into several stems each with 15-30 leaflets, 1-2" long, minutely toothed; seeds in a flat, twisted reddish-brown pod, 12-18" long; bark gray, broken into broad flat plates; thorns on branches and trunk. (A thornless variety is commonly planted.)

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
FOREST MANAGEMENT DIVISION
SIMPLE KEY TO MICHIGAN TREES

I. Conifers or Evergreens

A. Leaves Like Needles

WHITE PINE



Pinus strobus

Needles 5 in a cluster, 3-5" long, blue-green, soft; cones 4-8" long, with flexible scales; bark on young trunks smooth, greenish-gray, on old trunks gray and deeply furrowed; branches whorled.

RED PINE



Pinus resinosa

Needles in pairs, 4-8" long, straight, flexible; cones egg-shaped, 2" long; bark reddish-gray to red, flaky; branches whorled. (AUSTRIAN PINE - P. nigra; needles same length as red pine, stiff, sharp, twisted; bark gray-black; not native.)

JACK PINE



Pinus banksiana

Needles in pairs, 1-1 1/2" long, often twisted; cones 1-2" long, lopsided, remaining for many years; bark brown to black, scaly or furrowed. (SCOTCH PINE - P. sylvestris; needles slightly longer than jack pine; bark orange-red, not native.)

TAMARACK



Larix laricina

Needles light blue-green, soft, single along new twigs, in clusters on short spurs on older branchlets; needles drop in autumn, spurs remain; cones 1/2" long, erect; bark reddish-brown, scaly. Also called larch.

BALSAM FIR



Abies balsamea

Needles fragrant, flattened, blunt, 1/2 to 1 1/4" long, not stalked, two whitish parallel lines underneath, lying flat or up-curved; bark ash-gray, smooth, containing pitch blisters; top of tree spire-like; branches whorled.

HEMLOCK



Tsuga canadensis

Needles 1/2" long, flat, blunt, short-stalked, two whitish parallel lines underneath; cones 1/2" long, hanging at ends of twigs; bark cinnamon brown, deeply grooved on large trees.

SPRUCE



Picea species

Needles 1/4 to 3/4" long, L-angled, sharp, on raised bases; bark scaly. (BLACK SPRUCE - P. mariana; cones nearly round, 3/4" in diameter. WHITE SPRUCE - P. species glauca; cones 1-2" long. NORWAY SPRUCE - P. abies; cones 4-6" long; not native.)

B. Leaves Like Scales

NORTHERN WHITE CEDAR



Thuja occidentalis

Leaves small, flattened, overlapping scales, fragrant when crushed; cones 1/2" long, erect; bark gray-brown with narrow, interlacing ragged ridges. Also called arborvitae. Many ornamental varieties.

RED CEDAR



Juniperus virginiana

Leaves small, overlapping, tight or sharp-tipped scales; fruit a pea-sized blue berry; bark reddish brown, shreddy. Also called juniper. Many ornamental varieties.