

Tree Leaf Identification Guide



Maple Tree

- Roughly toothed leaves with 3-5 lobes
- Leaves are light green but turn shades of red/orange in the Fall

Fun Fact:

The sap from the Maple Tree is often used to make syrup. In fact, one gallon of syrup equals about 40 gallons of sap.



Washingtonia Palm

- Leaves are fan shaped and about 3-5 feet wide
- Sharply toothed petioles around 4-6 feet long
- Leaf bases are reddish brown in color

Fun Fact:

Washingtonia Palms are one of the tallest palm trees in the world reaching 70-100 feet tall.



Slash Pine Tree

- Glossy dark green needles approximately 4-9" long
- Leaves are arranged in bunches at the end (like a broom)

Fun Fact:

The term "slashes" was used to describe an overgrown swampy area which is the Slash Pine Tree's natural habitat and where it got its name.



Southern Magnolia

- Thick and glossy leaves
- Dark green top and rusty colored fuzzy underside
- 5-8 inches long
- Oval to elliptical shape
- White fragrant blossoms can be seen in the summer

Fun Fact:
Magnolias are believed to be the earliest known flowering plants with fossils dating back to 100 million years ago.

Live Oak

- Thick and leathery leaves
- Dark green on top with pale green/grayish underside
- Smooth edges
- Trees can grow 60-80 ft. tall and 60-120 ft. wide

Fun Fact:
An Oak can produce 10 million acorns in its lifetime and live up to 1,000 years.

Hickory

- Several long and narrow leaves that grow from each stalk
- Serrated edges
- Leaves grow in an oppositional pattern perpendicular from the stalk with a single leaf pointing out from the end
- Leaves near the tip are larger than at the base

Fun Fact:
Wood from the hickory tree is very hard and durable, because of this it was once used in the production of aircraft.

Camphor

- Glossy dark green (old) and light green (new) leaves
- Leaves have 3 main veins
- Small white flowers in Spring produce blue/black fruit clusters
- Alternately arranged leaves with a pointed oval shape
- Leaves produce a strong odor when crushed

Fun Fact:
In the past the bark was used for smoking meat but its oil was also used as an ingredient in some candies and drinks such as root beer!



Hackberry

- Rough textured leaves with serrated edges
- 2-5" Long and 3.5" wide
- Oval or egg shaped
- Widest part of leaf is at the base/asymmetric base

Fun Fact:

Native Americans used the hackberry as a source of food and for medicinal purposes.



Rain Tree

- Dark green leaves that turn yellow in the fall
- Leaves are divided into smaller leaflets with an alternate arrangement
- Deeply serrated leaves that appear lobed

Fun Fact:

Rain Trees can be a source of black and yellow dye and the seeds are sometimes used as beads.



Tupelo

- Leaves are hard and oval shaped
- Summer leaves are a glossy dark green while Fall leaves can be orange, red, yellow or even a shade of purple
- Can have a dark blue fruit

Fun Fact:

The leaves are so thin that light can pass through them making the leaves appear to glow red.



Bald Cypress

- Small, flat and feathery type leaves
- Leaves grow on both sides of the branch
- Leaves shed in the fall giving the tree its name

Fun Fact:

Bald Cypress Trees can grow to 150 feet tall and more than 6 feet wide making it one of the largest trees East of the Rockies in North America.



Chickasaw Plum

- Bright green narrow, oval shaped, toothed leaves
- 1-3" long
- In Spring it will have tiny 5-petaled white flowers which then fruit into small red/yellow fruits

Fun Fact:

The fruits have been using in making wines and jams.



Sabal Palm

- Mostly underground spiral shaped trunk
- All of the fan shaped leaves/fronds sprout from the top

Fun Fact:

The Sabal Palm is a symbol of courage and strength. In the Revolutionary war it was used to construct forts.



Sycamore

- Leaves have 5 distinct lobes in an alternating pattern on zig zagging branches
- Dark green/yellow in color
- Trees often have camouflage colored peeling bark

Fun Fact:

Sycamore Trees have the largest leaf of any tree in North America and can live 500-600 years.



Tabebuia

- Leathery oval shaped leaves
- 5-7 Leaflets on a stem
- In Spring they have a trumpet shaped flower that can be yellow, pink or white in color

Fun Fact:

One species of Tabebuia is the the National Tree of El Salvador and Venezuela. It's flower is also the National flower of Brazil.



Laurel Oak

- Smooth, narrow and shiny leaves
- Long skinny oval shape
- Dark green top with light green underside

Fun Fact:

Because of their rapid growth rate Laurel Oaks have weak wood as well as a shorter lifespan of only around 50-70 years.



East Palatka Holly

- Glossy dark green rounded leaves
- Single spine at the tip of the leaf
- Bright red berries can be seen in the Winter

Fun Fact:

In history species of the Holly Tree were believed to be resistant to lightning and would be planted near populated areas to protect people from lightning strikes.



Loquat

- Long leaves approximately 5-12" long
- Glossy dark green color on top with a rusty colored underside
- Oblong shape
- Produce small golden/yellow fuzzy skinned fruit

Fun Fact:

The Loquat tree is originally from China but has been naturalized in countries all over the world from South Africa and New Zealand to Iran and Armenia.



Elm

- Oblong shaped leaf with serrated edges which taper to a sharp point
- Asymmetrical base on the stem

Fun Fact:

Wood from the Elm Tree is very pliable and resistant to splitting, because of this it was used by Native Americans for ropes and canoes



Crape Myrtle

- Dark green oval shaped leaves
- Red fringe on leaves if cracked open
- Ruffled petal flowers in Spring ranging in colors from pink, red, white and purple

Fun Fact:

Crape Myrtle trees are known as the lilac of the South.



Red Cedar

- Soft, scale-like sprays blueish green and dark green in color
- Leaves grow tightly together on all 4 sides of the stem

Fun Fact:

The oils from the Red Cedar are used to repel insects. In the past it was also used to make pencils until less expensive options became available.



River Birch

- Oval/Diamond shape
- Double serrated margin
- Shiny green on top with a silvery color underneath

Fun Fact:

River Birch Trees are often used for erosion control along streams and rivers. In history its wood was also used to make wooden shoes.



Sweet Gum

- Star shaped leaf with 5 points
- Saw toothed serrated edge
- Dark green

Fun Fact:

Sweetgum trees and their sap have been used for medicinal purposes for many years.

Leaf Shapes



Linear



Obovate



Ovate



Pinnately
Lobed



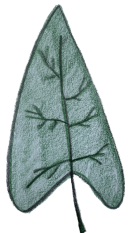
Palmately
Lobed



Reniform



Lanceolate



Sagittate

Arrangement



Simple



Palmately
Compound



Pinnately
Compound



Bipinnately
Compound

Arrangement on the Stem



Alternate



Opposite



Whorled

Margins



Entire



Crenate



Dentate



Serrate



Lobed