Winter Tree Identification

Safety

Wear appropriate clothing and footwear when headed to the forest:

- Sturdy boots with good tread
- · Long pants of canvas or thick material
- Long sleeves, warm layers with jacket (winter) and gloves
- Water, compass, and snack in a backpack
- Cell phone (note: service could be limited)

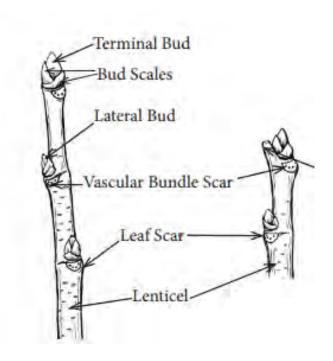
Let someone know where you are going. -Look up into forest canopy for hazardous branches, and be aware of tripping hazards (roots, stumps, logs, etc).

Winter Tree Characteristics

- Know your location:
 - · Eastern vs. Western Shore
 - Environment– streambank, lake shore, understory, forest edge, lowlands, creek bed, dry/sandy, etc.
 - Soil & bedrock type
 - Forest vs. Landscape vs. Urban
- Arrangement: Opposite vs. Alternate vs. Whorled
- <u>Fruit</u>: Cones, persistent fruit, pods
- Buds: Dormant, undeveloped young shoots (usually protected by scales
 - Downy vs. smooth, clustered vs. scattered, size
- <u>Bark:</u> Furrowed, smooth, peeling, etc.
- Twig: The end portion of a branch of a woody plant = one year's growth
 - Includes buds, leaf scar, bundle scar, color, fragrance



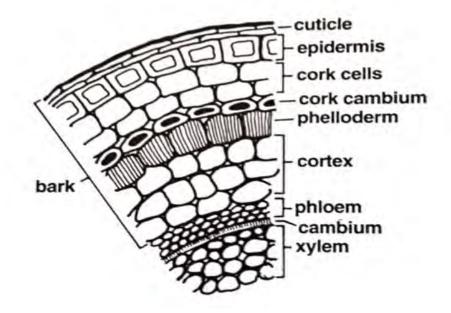




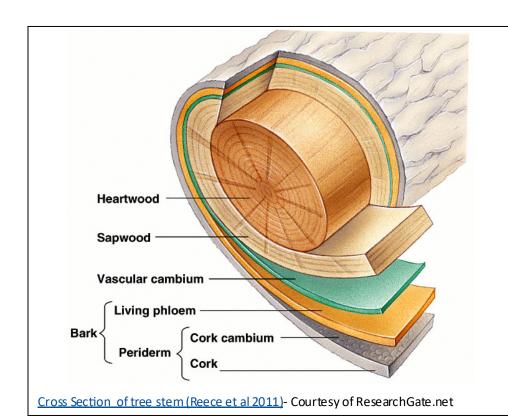
BARK

Rhytidome: The protective outer bark

- Bark layers expand and split
- · Phases change with age
 - Acer rubrum— smooth, unbroken bark (young) vs. flakey vertical strips (mature)
- Outer bark texture, shape, and thickness is a reaction to the stress of expanding wood beneath; each species responds differently according to number of periderms (cork tissue), type of periderm, and phloem tissue
- Includes entire multilayer shell that can detach from the wood
- Upper trunk is younger and has different characteristics than the older bark below
- Outer bark cells function much like home insulation; warms or cools the inner tissues
- Ridges, scales, and stripes increase surface area to help maintain steady temperature
- Contours hold moisture and slower heat transfer through the outer bark
- Protects tree from moss, lichen, and algae (epiphytes block sunlight)
- Bark chemical and structural defenses fight infection and infestation



Based on Michael Wohtech's Tree Identification book using bark: BARK: A Field Guide to Trees of the Northwest Wojtech, M (2011). Bark: A Field Guide to Trees of the Northeast. China, University Press of New England



CROSS SECTION ANATOMY

Heartwood: hard central wood of tree trunk

Sapwood: softer part of the wood between the inner bark and the

heartwood

Vascular Cambium: A cylindrical layer of cambium that runs through the stem of a plant that undergoes secondary growth. The vascular cambium produces vascular tissues, new xylem on interior side and new phloem on exterior side

Bark: all the layers of outer shell, everything outside vascular cambium

Living phloem: part of a vascular bundle forming the foodconducting tissue of a plant

Periderm: cork-producing tissue

Cork cambium: secondary tissue, formed on the outside of the tissue layer. Cell walls of cork cells contain suberin. Once mature, cork cells die

Cork: aka phellem: Outermost layer of tissue in woody plants, resistant to the passage of water vapor and gases, becomes the bark

Peeling horizontal



Riverbirch—Betula nigra

Smooth, unbroken



American beech- Fagus grandifolia

Vertical cracks or seams on otherwise smooth bark



Pignut hickory (young)— Carya glabra

Ridges & Furrows

Intersecting Ridges

Sassafras-Sassafras albidum



Chestnut oak-Quercus montana



Tulip poplar-Liriodendron tulipifera

Scales



Loblolly Pine— Pinus taeda

Plates

Sycamore—
Platanus occidentalis



Red maple— Acer rubrum

Visible Lenticels



Linear – Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*)



Diamond– White poplar (*Populus alba*)



Oval/Round— Pin oak (Quercus palustris)

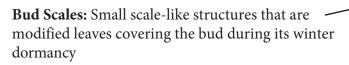
GLOSSARY

Terminal Bud: The bud formed at the tip of the twig

False Terminal Bud: A lateral bud that assumes the function of the terminal bud. When the growing tip withers or falls away, the closest lateral bud to the twig tip substitutes as a terminal bud



Note the part of the branch from last year's growth that extends beyond the base of the bud.

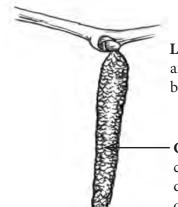


Lateral Bud: The buds formed on the side of a twig, not the bud at the end of the twig

Leaf Scar: A scar left on the twig when the leaf falls

Vascular Bundle Scars: A small mark on a leaf scar indicating a point where a vein from the

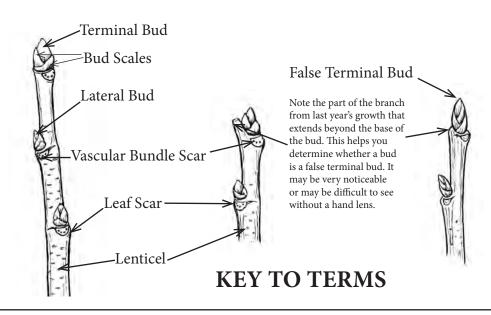
leaf was once connected with the stem



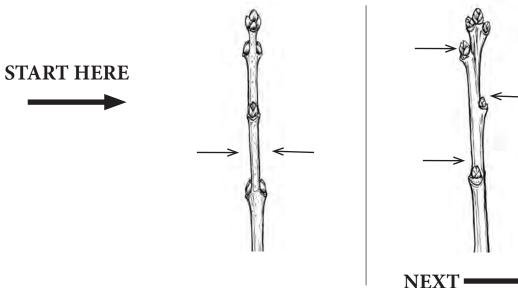
Lenticel: A small corky area or speck serving as a breathing pore

Catkin: A dense, cylindrical, often drooping cluster of flowers





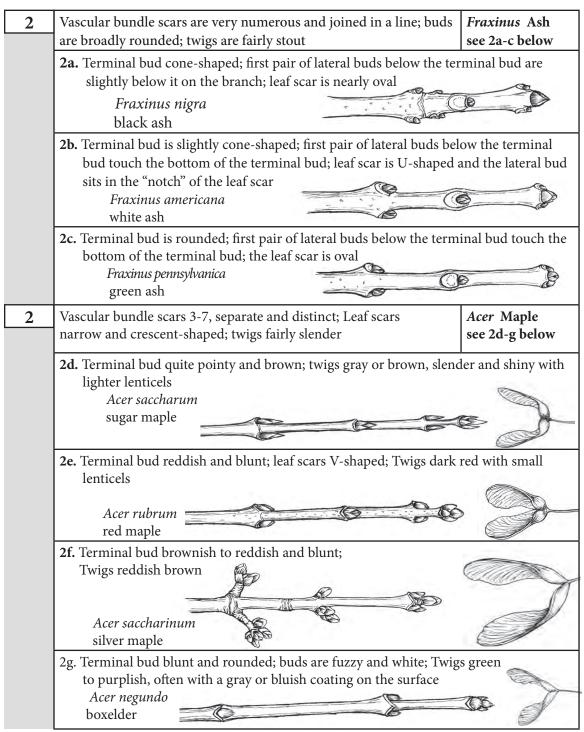
1. Leaf scars opposite...Got to 2 OR **1**. Leaf scars alternate...Go to 3

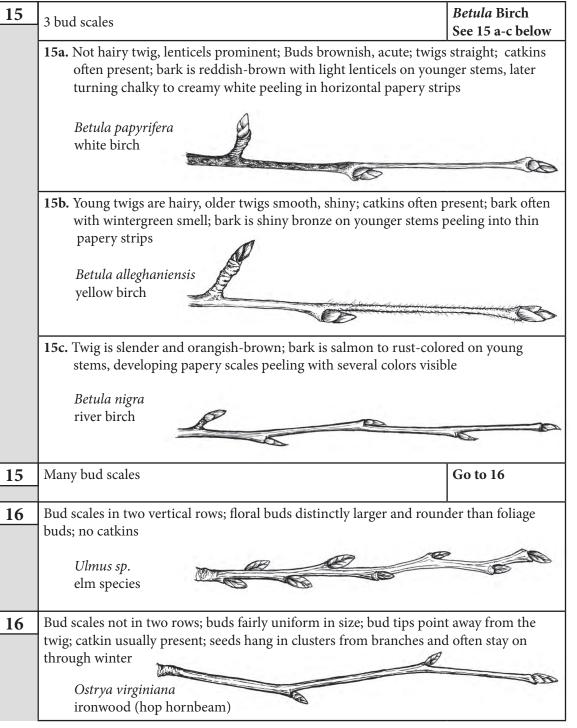




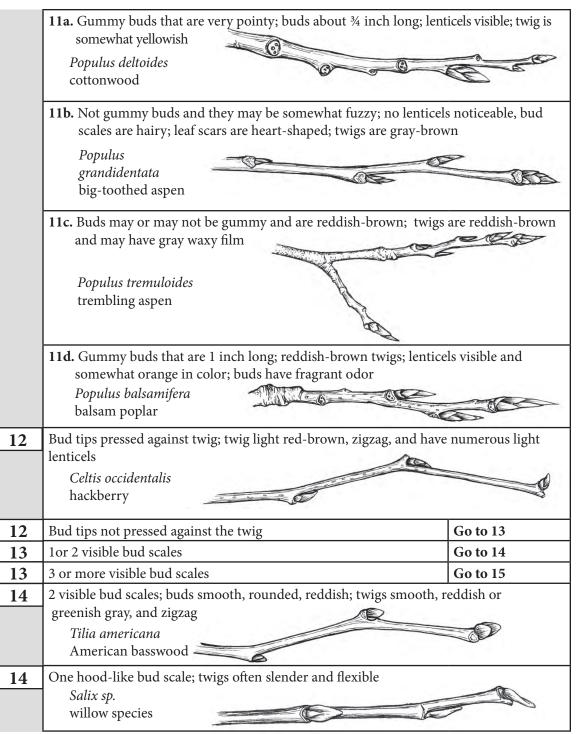
LEAF-Wisconsin's K-12 Forestry Education Program Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education College of Natural Resources

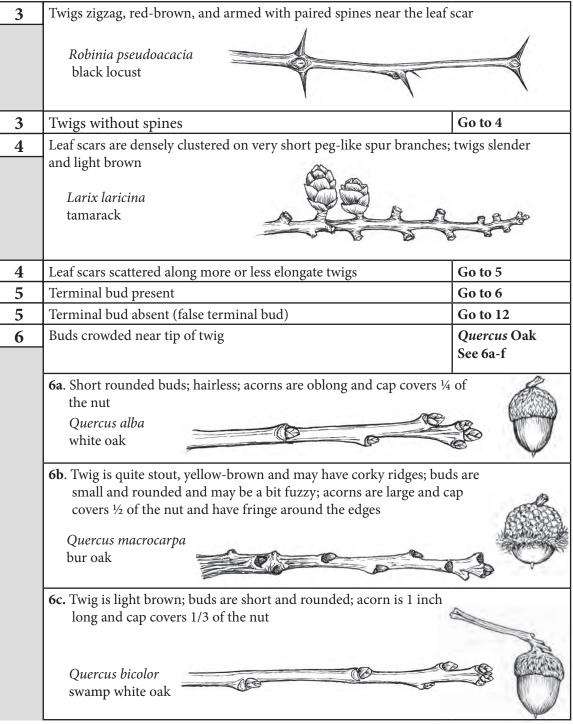
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point





LEAF Winter Tree ID Key ©2014 www.leafprogram.org





LEAF Winter Tree ID Key ©2014 www.leafprogram.org

Quercus red oak	rubra				
enclose Quercus	lender red-brow 1/3 to ½ of the ellipsoidalis n pin oak	vn and shiny; buds nut	s are pointed;	acorns have cap	s that
fuzzy; a of the s	corns have cap cales on the cap velutina	that covers ½ to 1, appear loose			, pointed and
6a.	6b.	6c.	6d.	6e.	6f.
white oak Quercus alba	bur oak Quercus macrocarpa	swamp white oak Quercus bicolor	red oak Quercus rubra	n. pin oak Quercus ellipsoidalis	black oak Quercus velutina
Buds not crowded near tip of twig				Go to 7	

7	Leaf scars heart shaped	Go to 8
7	Leaf scars other than heart-shaped or are inconspicuous	Go to 9
8	Twigs stout with numerous light lenticels; buds large, conspicuous; l	
0	slightly hairy; fruit has a tan husk that is distinctly 4-ribbed; bark "sl	•
	Carya ovata	667
	shagbark hickory	
8	Twigs stout and light brown; Buds gray and fuzzy; leaf scar described	· 1
	Pith chambered; fruit has green husk that contains a round, black nu Juglans nigra	II CE
		DO
	black walnut	
9	Leaf scar inconspicuous, buds narrow, acute, ¾ to 1 inch long, lance	-shaped: Many bud
9	scales and they overlap; twigs slender and zigzag	-snaped, many bud
	A. W	
	Y	
	Fagus grandifolia	
	beech	
9	Leaf scars visible although not all large	Go to 10
9	Leaf scars visible although not all large More than 3 yascular bundle scars: Buds dark red and sticky	Go to 10
9 10	More than 3 vascular bundle scars; Buds dark red and sticky	Go to 10
	More than 3 vascular bundle scars; Buds dark red and sticky Sorbus americana	Go to 10
	More than 3 vascular bundle scars; Buds dark red and sticky	Go to 10
	More than 3 vascular bundle scars; Buds dark red and sticky Sorbus americana	Go to 10 Go to 11
10	More than 3 vascular bundle scars; Buds dark red and sticky Sorbus americana American mountain-ash	Go to 11
10	More than 3 vascular bundle scars; Buds dark red and sticky Sorbus americana American mountain-ash 3 vascular bundle scars or scars not distinct Vascular bundle scars often not distinct; leaf scars small and semi-circ with glossy scales; twigs reddish brown to gray usually with short spurs	Go to 11
10	More than 3 vascular bundle scars; Buds dark red and sticky Sorbus americana American mountain-ash 3 vascular bundle scars or scars not distinct Vascular bundle scars often not distinct; leaf scars small and semi-circ	Go to 11
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10	More than 3 vascular bundle scars; Buds dark red and sticky Sorbus americana American mountain-ash 3 vascular bundle scars or scars not distinct Vascular bundle scars often not distinct; leaf scars small and semi-circ with glossy scales; twigs reddish brown to gray usually with short spur sgrowth; twigs sometimes bitter-almond taste Prunus serotina	Go to 11
10	More than 3 vascular bundle scars; Buds dark red and sticky Sorbus americana American mountain-ash 3 vascular bundle scars or scars not distinct Vascular bundle scars often not distinct; leaf scars small and semi-circ with glossy scales; twigs reddish brown to gray usually with short spur sgrowth; twigs sometimes bitter-almond taste Prunus serotina black cherry	Go to 11 cular; buds are small shoots on older
10	More than 3 vascular bundle scars; Buds dark red and sticky Sorbus americana American mountain-ash 3 vascular bundle scars or scars not distinct Vascular bundle scars often not distinct; leaf scars small and semi-circ with glossy scales; twigs reddish brown to gray usually with short spur sgrowth; twigs sometimes bitter-almond taste Prunus serotina	Go to 11

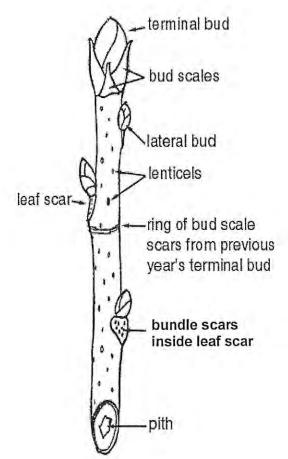
Winter Tree I.D.

Twig and bud features can be used to identify trees in winter

In winter, trees and shrubs can be identified by their distinctive twig and bud characteristics.

Twigs and buds have features that offer a reliable means of identification.

twig anatomy



Twigs, which may be defined as the end portion of the branch on a woody plant, represent the current year's growth. Twigs have distinguishing features such as buds, leaf scars, bundle scars, color, and fragrance.

Twigs from one branch of a tree may differ from twigs from another branch of the same tree because of frost or animal damage. Differences in twig growth also occur due to variations in the amount of shade. Twigs selected for identification should be uninjured and representative of the normal growth pattern of the tree or shrub.

Terminal bud (or end bud)

Bud located at the tip of the twig

Lateral bud (or side bud)

Bud located along the side of the twig

Pseudoterminal bud

In some species, a terminal bud is not formed and twig growth continues until stopped by bad weather. In this case the tip of the twig dies back close to the nearest mature lateral bud. A **pseudoterminal bud** can be differentiated from a true terminal bud because it usually has both a leaf scar immediately below it and a small twig scar behind it.

Bud scales

Scales covering the buds. Buds may have no scales, a single scale, a valvate scale, or imbricate scales

Lenticels

Small, wart-like bumps or lines that are irregularly scattered over the surface of twigs. They admit oxygen and other gases needed in respiration and other physiological processes. Most lenticels are round or oval, but they can be other shapes as well.

Leaf scar

After a leaf has fallen from a twig, a scar remains. There is great variation in the shape and size of leaf scars.

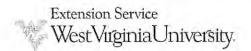
Bundle scars

Small dots or line on the surface of the leaf scar that mark the point where plant nutrients passed from the twig into the leaf.

Pitl

The innermost, central part of the twig, different from the wood or xylem surrounding it.

Winter buds of most deciduous trees and shrubs are usually sufficiently formed for identification purposes by early August, and these winter characteristics can be used for identification purposes for most of the year, except for about four months in late spring and early summer when most of the year's current growth is occurring.



Winter Tree I.D.

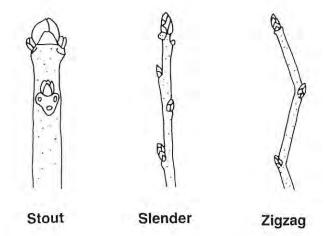
Twig and bud features that can be used to identify trees in winter

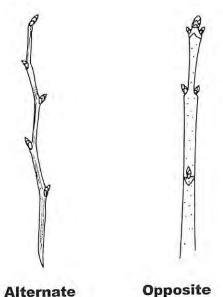
Twig size and shape

Species such as tree-of-heaven and staghorn sumac have stout twigs. Beech and birch have slender twigs. Sycamore twigs are zigzag in shape.

Twig color and scent

These are distinctive aspects of some twigs. Box elder has green twigs. Sassafras twigs are also green. Some twigs, when freshly cut, have distinctive aromas. Spicebush has a spicy fragrance. Sassafras and black birch are quite fragrant, while black cherry is foul-smelling.





Arrangement of buds on the twig

The arrangement of buds (which later become leaves) on the twig is described as **OPPOSITE**, **ALTERNATE**, or **WHORLED**.

There are only four trees with buds that are opposite: Maple, Ash, Buckeye, and most Dogwoods. Among the shrubs, viburnum and honeysuckle tend to have opposite buds.

Most trees and shrubs have alternate bud arrangements.

A few trees have whorled bud arrangements.

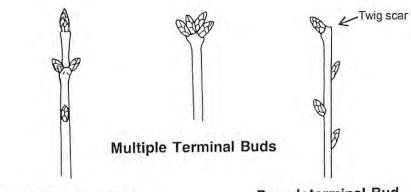
Terminal buds

There may be a single terminal bud, such as in the maples.

Multiple terminal buds may be clustered on the end of the twig, such as in the oaks.

The end bud can also be pseudoterminal.

The distance from the end bud (or buds) on a twig to the first set of bud scale scars indicates the current season's growth.



Single Terminal Bud

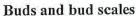
Pseudoterminal Bud

Leaf scars

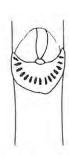
There is great variation in the shape and size of leaf scars. They can be horseshoe-shaped, V-shaped, half-round, shield-shaped, etc.

There are small dots or lines on the leaf scar called **bundle scars** which mark the point where plant nutrients passed from the twig into the leaf. The number, arrangement, and shape of these bundle scars can sometimes help in identification.

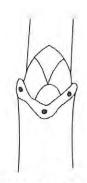
Common numbers of bundle scars are one to three, but more can occur. Some bundle scars are scattered throughout the leaf scar, as in oaks, but others have a distinct arrangement such as the U-shape of the bundle scars in ash.



Buds are like tiny cocoons. They are the dormant, undeveloped young shoots usually protected by hard flaps called bud scales. The majority of buds, especially lateral buds, never form shoots unless induced to do so by growth regulators or injury.



Leaf Scar of Ash



Leaf Scar of Maple



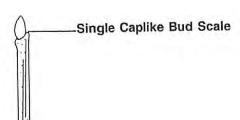
Leaf Scar of Oak

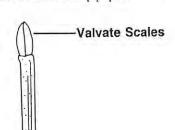
Some buds do not have scales and are called **naked** buds. Lilac and black walnut buds are examples. Some buds are covered with a **single** scale, such as willow buds.

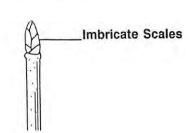
Some bud scales do not overlap but fit together edge to edge. This arrangement is called **valvate**, and is present on the tulip poplar.

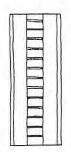
Bud scales may be numerous and overlap each other. This arrangement is called **imbricate**. Bud scales of maples are an example.

Buds can be stalked or unstalked. Witch-hazel and striped maple have stalked buds.

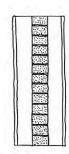




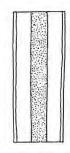




Chambered pith, hollow between walls



Diaphragmed pith, solid between walls



Continuous pith, solid with no walls

Pith

Most pith is circular in cross-section, but it may also be starshaped as in oaks (see below) or triangular as in alders. Pith color is usually white but may be brown, yellow, pink, or green.

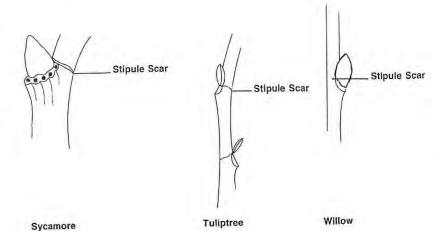
When cut longitudinally, most pith is **continuous** and **homogeneous** in composition. It may also be **diaphragmed**, which means there are walls that divide the solid pith at regular intervals. Diaphragmed pith is found in tulip tree and blackgum.

Rarely, the pith is **chambered**, which means the pith is a series of empty chambers divided by walls. Chambered pith is found in butternut and black walnut.



Oak has a pith in the form of a fivepointed star. Stipule scars

Stipules are outgrowths at the base of leaves that sometimes are leafy and occur in pairs on the twig near where the leaf attaches. When they fall off, they leave tiny scars called stipule scars. They are not present in all species and when present usually appear as small, inconspicuous lines or dots. Sycamore, willow, and tulip poplar have conspicuous stipule scars. In winter, lines on the twig mark the point where the stipules were attached. In sycamore and tulip poplar, the stipule scars encircle the twig.



Glossary of common terms used in winter twig identification keys

Accessory bud

Bud at or near the nodes but not in the axil. Of two kinds, collateral and superposed.

Acute

With sides forming an angle of less than 90°

Appressed bud

Bud that lies flattened against the twig

Axil

The angle formed at the upper side of the attachment of the leaf to the stem

Axillary bud

The first bud above the leaf or leaf scar

Divergent bud

Bud that points away from the twig

Collateral buds

Accessory buds at the side of the axillary bud, as in the red maple

Flower bud

A bud containing an undeveloped flower or flower cluster

Glabrous

Smooth

Glaucous

Covered with a white or bluish bloom which can usually be rubbed off easily

Mucronate

Ending in a fine, slender tip

Node

The place on the twig at which one or more leaves were produced

Obovate

Inverted egg shape, with the broadest part above the middle

Obtuse

With sides forming an angle of more than 90°

Ovate or Ovoid

Egg-shaped, with the broadest part below the middle

Pubescent

Hairy

Scurfy

Scaly rather than hairy

Spur-shoots

Short stubby branches with very crowded leaf scars and very slow growth

Sub-opposite

Said of paired leaf scars which are not at exactly the same height on the twig (staggered)

Superposed buds

Accessory buds above the axillary bud, as in the butternut

Tomentose

With short matted hairs; wooly

Wooly

Covered with tangled or matted hairs resembling wool



- 12:02:21 From Judith Rosenthal to Panelists: Will this be recorded and available later?
- 12:02:38 From Jean Margaret Burchfield to Everyone: Hi Judith, yes the will be recorded
- 12:03:29 From Jean Margaret Burchfield to Everyone : Our Cont. Ed recordings are posted on HGIC's YouTube channel here https://www.youtube.com/user/UMDHGIC
- 12:06:34 From Stephanie Ann Pully to Everyone : Here is the link to the resources Jonathan provided:
- https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/_images/programs/master_gardener_s/StateMG/WinterTreeIDResources.pdf
- 12:12:36 From Melanie Crowder to Panelists : could you please list the books noted on the prior slides? thanks,
- 12:13:40 From Sandra Hudspeth to Panelists: In "Bark" book, how do you know what age (in years) is considered young, mature and old.
- 12:15:30 From Stephanie Ann Pully to Everyone: Common Native Trees of Virginia:
- https://www.dof.virginia.gov/infopubs/Native-Tree-ID 2020.pdf
- 12:16:29 From Stephanie Ann Pully to Everyone : Leaf Key for Common Broadleaf Trees in Maryland (MD DNR) https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Documents/TreeGuide_Common-Broadleaf.pdf
- 12:18:15 From Stephanie Ann Pully to Everyone : The last book he mentioned was the Peterson field guide to trees, there are lots of options for that one online
- 12:20:37 From Melanie Crowder to Panelists: thank you!
- 12:28:34 From Jean Margaret Burchfield to Everyone : This key is included in his resources here https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/ images/programs/master gardener s/StateMG/WinterTreeIDResources.pdf
- 12:40:42 From Barb Shuster to Panelists : Can you kindly explain why Black Walnut trees make it difficult to plant some other trees or plants near it?
- 12:42:42 From Stephanie Ann Pully to Barb Shuster, All Panelists : Hi Barb, HGIC put out an update on this in 2019: https://extension.umd.edu/hgic/topics/walnut-toxicity-juglone
- 12:47:24 From Sandra Hudspeth to Panelists: american is #1
- 12:47:48 From Robin Hessey to Everyone: I was always taught in my MG classes that it's "one if by land, or two if by sea" which means that the 2 balls signify the London Plane tree.
- 12:50:46 From Stephanie Ann Pully to Barbara Waite-Jaques, All Panelists : Hi Barbara, we'll share the links after the class!
- 12:50:58 From Jean Margaret Burchfield to Everyone: Hi Barbara, we can download the chat along with the recording. We keep all of our links here on the website:
- $\underline{https://extension.umd.edu/mg/volunteer-resources/horticulture-webinars-online-classes-and-other-events}$
- 13:01:41 From Mariayne Brodnicki to Panelists : Thank you Jonathan. Interesting and jampacked!
- 13:02:23 From Catherine Salam to Panelists : That's the one we used for the NCS/Longwood Tree ID COurse
- 13:02:35 From Cheryl Davis to Panelists: Thank you. Very informative presentation.
- 13:02:49 From Jean Margaret Burchfield to Everyone: Winter tree finder
- https://www.amazon.com/Winter-Tree-Finder-Identifying-Deciduous/dp/0912550031
- 13:03:11 From LORA WONG to Panelists: This was fun & interesting. Thank you.

February 23, 2021

- 13:03:24 From Renee Padmore-Baccus to Panelists: Thanks! Great Presentation!!
- 13:03:24 From Carolyn Richardson to Panelists: Why do the leaves stay so long on the American Beech tree? Thanks!
- 13:11:06 From Ennise Bloom to Everyone : Should all ghost fruit be removed during winter dormancy?
- 13:14:12 From Terry Thir to Panelists : sugar maples grow great in Charles county, I have 4 that are huge and beautiful, They did get black fungus on the bark
- 13:14:20 From Lisa Ghezzi to Everyone : UME Team you are all very organized! Thank you. Well done. Speaker was terrific.
- 13:14:29 From Bonnie Legro to Panelists: Thank you very much.
- 13:14:44 From Ennise Bloom to Everyone: Thanks
- 13:14:50 From Jennifer Taubert to Everyone : Thank you so much! great presentation! Now to get outside and check out the trees!!!
- 13:15:00 From Elainne Lea to Panelists: Thank you, fascinating presentation. very helpful!
- 13:15:04 From Elena Wisler to Everyone: thank you!
- 13:15:06 From betty walke to Panelists: Awesome, thank you!
- 13:15:07 From Holly Stover to Panelists: I learned a lot thank you,
- 13:15:08 From Kathy Plitt to Panelists: Thank you very much! Excellent presentation!
- 13:15:14 From Barb Shuster to Panelists: Thank you
- 13:15:18 From Erica Smith to Panelists: thanks! great talk!
- 13:15:19 From Cheryl Belitsos to Panelists: thank you!!
- 13:15:19 From Debra Gair to Panelists: Thank you!
- 13:15:20 From Anne Hilliard to Panelists: thanks
- 13:15:23 From Joan Schrauth to Panelists: thank you well done!
- 13:15:24 From PHYLLIS KELLEY to Panelists: thank you!
- 13:15:25 From Layton Ana María to Panelists : Fabulous, thank you!!
- 13:15:28 From William Allen to Panelists: great presentation.....
- 13:15:36 From Sally Matts to Panelists: Thank you. This info will help when I'm hiking
- 13:15:39 From Margaret Eby to Panelists: Thanks! Great presentation!
- 13:16:43 From Peggy Cook to Panelists: thank you!
- 13:16:49 From Jessica Howard to Panelists: Thank you so much!
- 13:17:03 From Jennifer Newburger to Panelists: thank you!
- 13:17:25 From patricia parker to Panelists : Thank you very much