



Black Ash



Leaf Characteristics

- broad, flat
- compound
- pinnately compound
- margins toothed
- leaflets similar in size and shape
- leaves opposite
- leaflets without stems



Fruit Characteristics

- single winged
- elongated
- truly winged
- seed cavity rounded or flat
- fruit straight
- oblong, wider

Black Ash *Fraxinus nigra*

The Black Ash has a tall trunk with a fairly uniform diameter up to the branches. The soft, ash-gray bark is fissured into scaly plates, which easily can be reduced to powder by rubbing. The Black Ash is a tree of wet places. It favors the wet soils of cold swamps, peat bogs, and stream



Tree Size

bottoms that periodically are flooded. This is a northern tree, the most northern of the ash trees. It grows in much of southeastern Canada, the Great Lakes Region, and the northeastern-most states. In Ohio most records are from the northern half of the state, although a few local records occur in the southern counties. The wood of the Black Ash is soft but durable and it separates easily into thin layers. Strips of split wood are used in making baskets, barrel hoops and chair bottoms. This has given rise to alternate common names of "Basket Ash" and "Hoop Ash." Carpenters also sometimes use the wood for interior finish.

height 30' - 60'
diameter 1' - 2'



Bark



Twig

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White Ash



Leaf Characteristics

- broad, flat
- compound
- pinnately compound
- margins toothed
- leaflets similar in size and shape
- leaves opposite
- leaflets with short stems
- leaflets irregularly toothed, or only near tip
- twigs and leaf stalks smooth

Fruit Characteristics

- single winged
- elongate
- seed cavity round or flattened
- fruit straight
- less narrow, less tapered, about 1/4" wide

White Ash

Fraxinus americana

This is the largest of the Ash trees in North America, sometimes reaching 100 feet in height. The tallest specimen in Ohio today reaches 85 feet, and almost is 6 feet in

diameter. The firm, gray bark of the White Ash has diamond-shaped furrows and interlacing ridges. The tree grows in the rich, moist, well-drained soil of bottomlands and not-so-dry slopes. It ranges throughout Ohio. The size and value of White Ash trees make this one of the primary commercial hardwoods in the United States.

The wood is hard, strong, elastic, and very useful. It has a variety of applications, including interior finish, vehicles, furniture, containers, and wooden equipment. Also, it often has been used as a shade or street tree. Several kinds of birds eat the fruit.



Tree Size

height 60' - 80'

diameter 2' - 4'



Bark

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Bigtooth Aspen



Leaf Characteristics

- broad, flat
- simple
- not lobed
- fine, double teeth
- all teeth same size
- long stem, wide leaf
- rounded, without glands
- few, coarse teeth

Fruit Characteristics

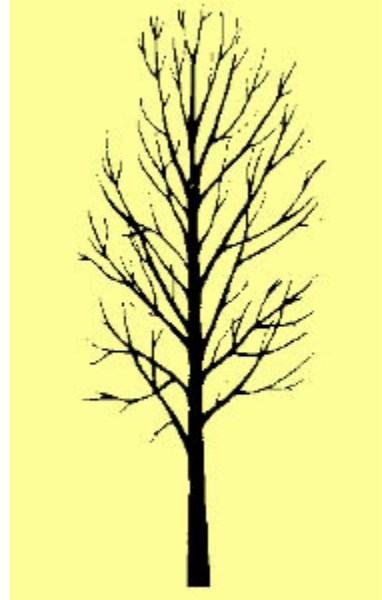
- other fruit (not cone, winged, acorn, or in pod or capsule)
- fruit in small capsules along stem
- capsule with floss and disk at base
- thin walled, narrow

Bigtooth Aspen

Populus grandidentata

As the name suggests, the leaves of this tree have large, coarse teeth. The tree grows in moist soil near streams, and frequently is one of the first trees to grow in abandoned fields and burned-over areas. Although widely distributed in Ohio, it is

more common in the northern part of the state. Human use of this tree is mainly as pulpwood, although it sometimes is used in rough construction. Much of the tree, however, is used by animals. The beaver uses it both for food and construction, and several other mammals and birds use the bark, twigs and buds as food.



Tree Size
height 30' - 60'
diameter 1' - 2'



Bark

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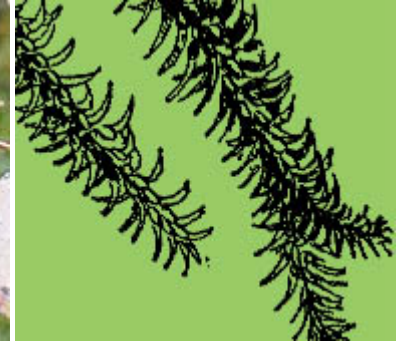
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Quaking Aspen



Leaf Characteristics

- broad, flat
- simple
- not lobed
- fine, double teeth
- all teeth same size
- long stem, wide leaf
- rounded, without glands
- many, fine teeth

Fruit Characteristics

- other fruit (not cone, winged, acorn, or in pod or capsule)
- fruit in small capsules along stem
- capsule with floss and disk at base
- thin walled, narrow

Quaking Aspen *Populus tremuloides*

The smaller, finer teeth on the leaves of this aspen contrast with those of the [Bigtooth Aspen](#). The tree will grow in almost any soil except in the wettest swamps. As with its "bigtoothed" relative, it is a "pioneer" tree, growing readily in burned-over areas and unused fields. In northern Ohio this tree is common. In the southern part of the state it is widely distributed, but more



Tree Size

height 20' - 60'
diameter 1' - 2'





Basswood (American Basswood)



Leaf Characteristics

- broad, flat
- simple
- not lobed
- fine, double teeth
- all teeth same size
- shorter stem
- side veins near base longer than others
- asymmetrical base, broad
- large, 2" to 6" long
- 4" to 6" long, pale green beneath

Fruit Characteristics

- other fruit (not cone, winged, acorn, or in pod or capsule)
- without husk or capsules
- loose, not packed tightly together
- fruit with pit
- whole fruit less than 1 inch
- not like raspberries
- fruit not at end of single stalk
- fruit loosely clustered
- gray-green

Basswood (American Basswood, American Linden) *Tilia americana*

The tree grows in rich, moist, well-drained soil. It is found throughout

glaciated Ohio, in the western, northwestern and northern parts of the state. The tough, fibrous inner bark has been used by Native American Indians and settlers in making rope, mats, and thongs. The wood is light and soft, and is well suited for working. Although rather weak, it has been used for cheap furniture, containers, beekeeping supplies, and various woodenware. Honeybees feed on the flowers, producing what is reputed to be a choice grade of honey. Birds eat the buds, small mammals eat the fruit, and several species feed on the bark and sprouts.



Tree Size

height 60' - 80'
diameter 2' - 3'



Bark

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Beech (American Beech)



Leaf Characteristics

- broad, flat
- simple
- not lobed
- course teeth
- 2" to 5" long

Fruit Characteristics

- other fruit (not cone, winged, acorn, or in pod or capsule)
- nut in a husk
- thin, spiny husk
- fruit less than 2" in diameter, weak, unbranched spines

Beech (American Beech) *Fagus grandifolia*

The tallest American Beech found today in Ohio, in Ashtabula County, is 130 feet tall. The smooth gray bark of this grand tree is familiar to many. Also distinctive are the long, slender, pale chestnut-brown buds, readily visible during the winter. The tree prefers



Tree Size

height 60' - 100'
diameter 2' - 3'

deep, fertile, well-drained but moist soils. It is found throughout Ohio, probably in every county, and particularly in mature woods. In those parts of the state, however, where prairie grasses originally dominated plant growth, the American Beech is limited in its distribution. The tough, strong wood is used for flooring, furniture and other wooden ware. Hollows in beech trees provide shelter for many animals. And many mammals and birds, including deer, bear, squirrels, grouse and turkey, feed on the nuts. The smaller European Beech is widely planted in the United States as an ornamental tree.



Bark



Twigs and Buds

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Black Birch (Sweet Birch)



Leaf Characteristics

- broad, flat
- simple
- not lobed
- fine, double teeth
- small teeth between larger teeth
- base symmetrical
- base not wedge-shaped
- leaf long, oval
- narrows toward tip
- twice as long as wide

Fruit Characteristics

- cone or cone-like
- cone greater than 1 inch long
- wings on both sides of scales
- seed with wings
- smooth winged nutlets
- cone short, robust
- cone 2 times as long as wide
- scales smooth

Black Birch (Sweet Birch, Cherry Birch) *Betula lenta*

The darkly colored bark on older trunks resembles the smooth but fissured bark of the Black Cherry tree. It grows on rich, moist soils. In Ohio it is limited

to a narrow band of cool, moist ravines along the hilly western margin of the Allegheny Plateau. The hard, strong wood is used for furniture and hardwood flooring. Also, it makes very good firewood. Several mammals eat its bark and twigs, and a number of birds and mammals feed on its buds and seeds. In addition to this and the [Yellow Birch](#) there are several other birches in Ohio, including the attractive [River Birch](#) of streamside habitats.



Tree Size

height 50' - 60'
diameter 2' - 3'

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Paper Birch



Leaf Characteristics

- broad, flat leaves
- simple leaves
- not lobed
- fine, double teeth
- small teeth between large
- base symmetrical
- base not wedge-shaped
- leaf short

Fruit Characteristics

- cone or cone-like
- cone greater than 1 inch long
- wings on both sides of scales
- seed with wings
- smooth winged nutlets
- cone long and narrow

Paper Birch *Betula papyrifera*

The Paper Birch is considered by many to be one of the most attractive native trees in North America. Its branches are nearly horizontal or slightly drooping, while those of the [European Birch](#) droop noticeably. Also called the Canoe Birch because of its



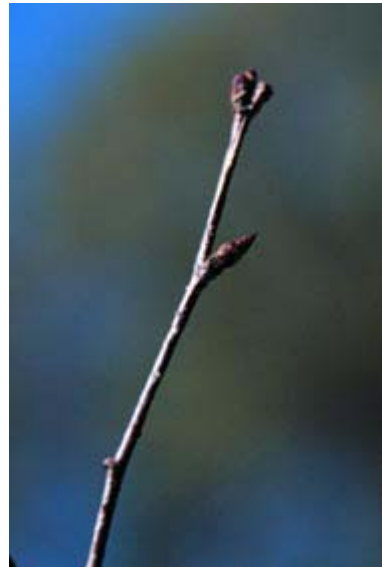
legendary association with northern Indians, it frequently is thought of in connection with the unaltered "North Country" before European settlement. By 1987, a champion Paper Birch tree in Ashtabula County, Ohio had grown to a height of 62 feet, and the spread of its crown had reached 72 feet. The outer bark of this tree is smooth, thin and white. The inner bark is orange. The Paper Birch grows along stream banks, lakeshores, and on the moist slopes of hills. In contrast to the [River Birch](#) this is a tree of the North. It is found throughout Canada and Alaska as far north as trees will grow. In Ohio it grows naturally in very limited localities in the northern part of the state. Since it makes a very attractive ornamental tree, however, it has been planted elsewhere in the state. Wood of the Paper Birch is light and strong. Commercial uses of the wood include small turned objects such as spools and bobbins, as well as tooth picks and ice cream sticks. It also is used for plywood, fuel

Tree Size

height 50' - 75'
diameter 1' - 3'



Bark



Twig and Buds

and wood pulp, and it is used in landscape plantings. Native American Indians have used parts of this tree in making canoes, dwellings and utensils. In the northern part of its range Ruffed Grouse feed on the buds. The Varying Hare feeds on its bark. Various birds and small rodents feed on the seeds.



Flower



Catkin

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Yellow Birch



Leaf Characteristics

- broad, flat
- simple
- not lobed
- fine, double teeth
- small teeth between larger teeth
- base symmetrical
- base not wedge-shaped
- leaf long, oval
- narrows toward tip
- twice as long as wide

Fruit Characteristics

- cone or cone-like
- cone greater than 1 inch long
- wings on both sides of scales
- seed with wings
- smooth winged nutlets
- cone short, robust
- cone 2 times as long as wide
- scales hairy

Yellow Birch

Betula alleghaniensis

The bark on limbs and young trunks is silvery-yellowish in color, hence the name. On older trunks the smooth bark breaks open and curls back in thin plates.

This tree is limited to a cool, moist habitat. In Ohio it most commonly occurs in the northeastern quarter of the state, but can be found southward in ravines along the western edge of the Allegheny Plateau. The Yellow Birch tree is the most frequently used birch for lumber. Its hard, strong wood is used for furniture and various small objects. Deer, rabbits and beaver feed on this tree, and Ruffed Grouse eat the buds during the winter.



Tree Size

height 60' - 80'
diameter 2' - 4'



Bark

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Butternut



Leaf Characteristics

- broad, flat
- compound
- pinnately compound
- margins toothed
- similar in size and shape
- leaves alternate
- no wing-like projections
- without milky sap
- leaflets greater than 8 inches long
- end leaflet similar to others



Fruit Characteristics

- other fruit (not cone, winged, acorn, or in pod or capsule)
- enclosed by husk
- thick husk
- husk without seams, nut with ridges
- oblong, nut ridges sharp

Butternut

Juglans cinerea

The Butternut, sometimes called the White Walnut, is smaller than the [Black Walnut](#). Similar to its relative, this tree prefers rich, moist soils and is found stream bottoms and ravine slopes. But, in Ohio it is less commonly found than the [Black Walnut](#), especially in the west-central and



Tree Size

height 30' - 60'
diameter 1' - 3'



Catalpa (Northern Catalpa)



Leaf Characteristics

- broad, flat
- simple
- not lobed
- smooth margins, entire
- opposite
- large, heart shaped



Fruit Characteristics

- in a long capsule

Northern Catalpa *Catalpa speciosa*

Originally native to the lower Ohio River valley and central Mississippi River Valley, this tree has been widely distributed through human intervention. Farmers first brought it into Ohio, commonly using it for fence posts. By way of intentional planting and "escapes" this tree has become established in most of Ohio's counties. People



Tree Size

height 40' - 75'
diameter 1' - 2'

also have planted the Northern Catalpa as an ornamental tree for its showy, spring flowers. The wood, mostly used for fence posts, also has been used for railroad ties, cheap furniture, and interior finish. This is the favored food-plant of the Catalpa Sphinx Moth, which sometimes strips a tree of its leaves.



Flower



Branch

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Red Cedar

(Eastern Red Cedar)



Leaf Characteristics

- scale-like
- scales rounded, close to twig

Fruit Characteristics

- other fruit (not cone, winged, acorn, or in pod or capsule)
- without husk or capsules
- loose, not packed tightly together
- fruit with pit
- whole fruit less than 1 inch
- fruit without strap-like modified leaf
- not like raspberries
- fruit not at end of single stalk
- fruit borne singly
- green-blue, gray

Red Cedar, Eastern Red Cedar

Juniperus virginiana

Another medium-sized "evergreen" tree, this juniper grows to 30 to

50 feet and 1 to 2 feet in diameter. In contrast to the flattened branchlets of the [Northern White-Cedar](#), scales on mature Red-Cedars cover the rounded branchlets on 4 sides such that the stems appear square. Also unlike other similar trees in Ohio, the small fruit of the Red Cedar is somewhat fleshy, making it look more like a berry than a cone. As they develop at first, these fruits are green. As they mature they turn blue and then are covered with a gray, waxy material. Similar to the [Northern White Cedar](#), the thin, light reddish-brown bark of this tree sheds in long, narrow, shredded strips. This tree prefers moist to swampy soils, but does well on poor, dry soil. It prefers limestone soils such as found in western Ohio. Similar to the [Northern White Cedar](#), the durability of the wood of this tree makes it useful as fence posts. Also the wood is used in making such things as moth-resistant chests, pencils and some furniture. One or two other junipers, which generally are northern trees, may occur in northern Ohio.



Tree Size

height 30' - 50'
diameter 1' - 2'



Bark



Branch

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Black Cherry



Leaf Characteristics

- broad, flat
- simple
- not lobed
- fine, double teeth
- all teeth same size
- shorter stem
- all side veins same length
- long, not narrow
- veins curved
- less than 5" long
- stem less than 1/3 length of leaf
- short tip, veins not dense
- narrow

Fruit Characteristics

- other fruit (not cone, winged, acorn, or in pod or capsule)
- without husk or capsules
- loose, not packed tightly together
- fruit with pit
- whole fruit less than 1 inch
- fruit without strap-like modified leaf
- not like raspberries
- fruit not at end of single stalk
- loosely clustered
- various colors but leaves not modified
- round, dark red to black
- 0.5" in diameter
- with stone or pit

Black Cherry

Prunus serotina

The tree grows on deep, moist but well-drained, fertile soils. It is found in forests, and also in open fields, second-growth woodlands, and along fence-rows. This is one of the most valuable timber trees in Ohio. Its strong, heavy wood has been used extensively for furniture, veneer, and interior finish. Although small in size, the fruit has been used in making wine and jelly. Many kinds of birds and mammals feed on the prolific fruit.



Tree Size

height 50' - 60'
diameter 1' - 3'



Bark



Flower

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Chestnut (American Chestnut)



Leaf Characteristics

- broad, flat
- simple
- not lobed
- coarse teeth
- leaf 5" - 8" long, deep teeth
- short, stout stem

Fruit Characteristics

- other fruit (not cone, winged, acorn, or in pod or capsule)
- nut in a husk
- thinner, spiny husk
- 2-3 inch diameter, sharp branching spines

Chestnut (American Chestnut) *Castanea dentata*

Until the imported chestnut blight hit this tree about 1904, the American Chestnut was one the most regal residents of the forests of northeastern United States. Now, all that remain are an occasional bare, standing trunk and



Tree Size
height 100'+

persistent stump sprouts. When it lived in health the tree preferred rich, well-drained soils. In Ohio, its distribution mostly was limited to the Allegheny Plateau area of the eastern half of the state. The light but durable wood was used for rough exterior work such as railroad ties, posts and poles, and for interior finish and cheap furniture. Both humans and wildlife sought the nuts for food. Today, several other kinds of chestnut tree from other parts of the World, including the [Chinese Chestnut](#), are planted as ornamentals. As with their predecessor, the nuts of some are found to be tasty.

diameter 3' - 4'



Branch

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American Elm

(White Elm, Water Elm)



Leaf Characteristics

- broad, flat
- simple
- not lobed
- fine, double teeth
- small teeth between larger teeth
- base asymmetrical
- not rough beneath



Fruit Characteristics

- single winged
- oval to circular
- wing edges hairy

American Elm (White Elm) *Ulmus americana*

This is the largest and most widespread elm in the United States. The tallest example in Ohio today, growing in Hamilton County, stands 97 feet. The tall, drooping crown growing above divided trunks gives the mature tree a distinctive, vase-like appearance. The tree



Tree Size
height 75' - 100+'

grows on rich, moist bottomlands and in ravines, and sometimes on moist slopes and woodlands. Although widespread in Ohio, many trees have been destroyed by the Dutch Elm disease. In the past it extensively was used as a shade and ornamental tree. The wood has been used in much the same way as that of the [Slippery Elm](#). Both birds and mammals feed on fruit and buds, and mammals will the the bark and twigs of younger trees.

diameter 2' - 4'



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Ginkgo



Leaf Characteristics

- broad, flat leaves
- simple leaves
- lobed leaves
- only 2 lobed

Fruit Characteristics

- other fruit (not cone, winged, acorn, or in pod or capsule)
- without husk or capsules
- loose, not packed tightly together
- fruit with large pit
- whole fruit larger than 1 inch
- silvery-white pit

Ginkgo (Maidenhair Tree) *Ginkgo biloba*

The fan-shaped leaves of this tree are very distinctive: "once seen, never forgotten."

Sometimes the leaves have a single lobe, but sometimes they have two, hence the Latin name biloba. The bark is gray in color and

becomes broken by deep furrows on older trunks. Individual trees are either male or female. Since people in the U.S. usually plant only the male trees, we rarely see the fruit in this country. This species is the last living representative of an ancient, prehistoric family of trees. Today, as well as throughout recorded history, the Ginkgo is not known to live naturally in the wild. For a great many centuries Buddhists have planted and cared for these trees on temple grounds in China, Korea and Japan, thereby possibly having saved the species from extinction. Its resistance to smoke, diseases and other destructive factors make the Ginkgo successful as an ornamental in the United States. It has been planted extensively in eastern states including Ohio, and on the Pacific Coast. In its Asian homeland roasted pits from the fruit are considered to be a delicacy.



Tree Size

height 60' - 100'
diameter 2' - 3'



Bark



Twig

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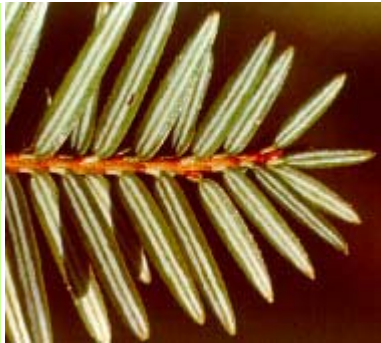
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Eastern Hemlock



Leaf Characteristics

- flattened leaves (needles)
- needles wide, with 2 white lines beneath

Fruit Characteristics

- cone or cone-like
- cone less than 1 inch long
- oblong cone
- 0.5 - 0.8 inches long

Eastern Hemlock *Tsuga canadensis*

This tree, the only hemlock found in Ohio, is large, growing to a height of 60 to 75 feet and a diameter of 1 to 3 feet. In virgin forests it grew to more than 100 feet in height and 4 feet in diameter. The distinctive, flat needles are glossy green above, and pale green with two white lines below. The scaly bark of mature trees is dark purplish



Tree Size

height 60' - 75'
diameter 1' - 3'

brown and deeply furrowed. The tree grows best in cool, moist locations such as the north-facing slopes of deep ravines in eastern Ohio. The wood is inferior to that of [White Pine](#) and is used for rough construction lumber, and as pulpwood. Formerly, the bark was much in demand for its tannic acid, used in tanning leather. Several birds and mammals feed on the seeds.

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Horsechestnut



Leaf Characteristics

- broad, flat
- compound
- palmately compound
- usually 7 leaflets, no stalk

Fruit Characteristics

- other fruit (not cone, winged, acorn, or in pod or capsule)
- enclosed by husk
- thick husk
- husk with seams, nut smooth
- husk spiny
- spines large

Horsechestnut

Aesculus
hippocastanum

This relative of the Buckeyes was introduced from the Balkan Peninsula and adjacent Asia. It has been planted so extensively in communities that it is the "Buckeye" with which many people are most familiar. The tree

grows well in these urban conditions. Although not native to Ohio, its use as an ornamental has resulted in its being planted throughout the state. In Europe the wood of this tree is used by woodcarvers and turners. It seems to be of no value in the United States. This tree is not a true chestnut and, as with both "Buckeyes" in Ohio, the nuts are considered to be poisonous.



Tree Size

height 25' - 60'
diameter 1' - 2'



Flower



Twig and Buds

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Tamarack (American Larch)



Leaf Characteristics

- needle-like
- needles in clusters
- clusters of more than 5 needles

Fruit Characteristics

- cone or cone-like
- cone less than 1 inch long
- cone long, stands upright from branch

Tamarack (American Larch) *Larix laricina*

The bark of this tree is thin, gray to reddish-brown, and is roughened with small, circular scales. Its needles grow in clusters on short, spur-like branches. The Tamarack and the [Bald Cypress](#) shed all of their leaves in the fall, the only native conifers to do so. The Tamarack is native to Canada and Alaska, where it is



Tree Size

height 40' - 80'
diameter 1' - 2'

found as far north as trees are able to grow. It also occurs naturally in the northeastern U.S. including the Great Lakes region. In Ohio it grows in the wet soils of bogs and in the borders of ancient, glacial lakes. This occurs in several northeastern counties, and to a lesser extent in northwestern counties of the state. In the southern part of its range, such as in northern Ohio, the Tamarack usually does not grow as large as it does to the North. Wood from this tree is very hard and strong, and is long-lasting when in contact with soil. Its main use is in making railroad ties, telephone poles, fence posts, and sometimes in shipbuilding. The Red Squirrel and a few kinds of birds feed on the seeds.



Bark

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Black Locust (Common Locust)



Leaf Characteristics

- broad, flat
- compound
- pinnately compound
- margins smooth
- singly compound
- leaflets rounded at one or both ends
- tip of leaflet rounded

Fruit Characteristics

- in a pod or capsule
- in a flat pod
- pod has straight edges, not wavy
- pod light, 1/4 inch seeds
- pod tapers abruptly, seeds kidney-shaped

Black Locust (Common Locusts) *Robinia pseudoacacia*

As Black Locust trees mature, the dark bark becomes marked with deep furrows and rounded ridges. The tree grows best in rich, moist soils of bottomlands and along streams, but also does well on waste land and on drier slopes. The



Tree Size
height 30' - 70'

hard, strong wood is very durable when in contact with the soil. It has been used extensively for mine props, railroad ties, and fence posts. This tree is planted on reclaimed land and to control erosion, and has been used for ornamental purposes. Although historically it probably was limited to southern Ohio, today the Black Locust is found throughout most of the state. The bark is poisonous for cattle who sometimes feed on young shoots. In contrast, rabbits often feed successfully on the bark during winter months. Birds, including Mourning Doves and Bobwhite Quails, eat the seeds.

diameter 1' - 3'



Flower

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Red Maple



Leaf Characteristics

- broad, flat
- simple
- palmately lobed
- notches between lobes V-shaped
- appears 3-lobed, with weak basal lobes

Fruit Characteristics

- paired wings
- wings close, less than 45 degrees apart
- winged seed about 3/4" long

Red Maple *Acer rubrum*

This species and the [Silver Maple](#) often are referred to as the "soft maples." The bright red flowers make this tree conspicuous in early spring. In autumn the changing leaves become scarlet to orange in color. The tree grows in moist soils in swamps, bottomlands, and uplands. Distributed



Tree Size

height 60' - 80'
diameter 1' - 2'

throughout Ohio, it is most common in the southwestern and eastern parts of the state and near Lake Erie. The wood is soft, not very strong and not durable. It is used for some furniture, boxes, and woodenware. Although not as productive as [Sugar Maple](#), the Red Maple can be tapped for syrup and sugar. The tree often is planted as an ornamental. Several kinds of mammals feed on parts of the tree.



Bark



Twigs and Buds

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Silver Maple



Leaf Characteristics

- broad, flat
- simple
- palmately lobed
- notches between lobes V-shaped
- with 5 - 11 lobes
- lobe bases narrow
- teeth irregular

Fruit Characteristics

- paired wings
- wings 60 to 90 degrees apart
- winged seed about 1.25" - 2" long
- paired wings about 90 degrees apart

Silver Maple *Acer saccharinum*

The deeply lobed leaves are silvery on their under surfaces, a feature often noticeable when leaves are blown by wind. The bark of older trees typically separates into long, narrow scales, giving the trunks a "shaggy" appearance. The tree commonly grows in moist and fertile habitats, in swamps,



Tree Size

height 60' - 80'
diameter 2' - 4'

stream banks, and bottomlands where flooding occurs. As with the [Red Maple](#), Silver Maple wood is soft and neither strong nor durable. Its uses generally are limited to cheap furniture, pulpwood, containers, and as a fuel. Although relatively short-lived, this fast-growing tree commonly is planted along community streets and as a shade tree. An early writer claimed that "more tasty" sugar could be gotten from this tree and the [Red Maple](#) than from the [Sugar Maple](#), but in much lower quantity.



Bark



Twigs and Buds

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Sugar Maple



Leaf Characteristics

- broad, flat
- simple
- palmately lobed
- notches U-shaped
- small notches
- without milky juice
- not hairy beneath



Fruit Characteristics

- paired wings
- wings 60 to 90 degrees apart
- winged seed about 1" long

Sugar Maple *Acer saccharum*

In spring, the numerous yellow flowers give this tree a distinctive appearance. The tree grows well in fertile, moist, and well-drained soils. Still, it can be found in poorer, rocky soil as well. It is widely distributed in Ohio. The wood is hard, close-grained, and heavy, making this a very valuable timber tree. It has many uses, including for flooring,



Tree Size

height 75' - 100'
diameter 2' - 4'

furniture, veneer, musical instruments, and a variety of woodenware. In terms of quantity produced, this tree is the best source of maple sugar, and has been used as such since the days of early settlement. Before then it was used by Native American Indians.



Bark



Twigs and Buds

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Black Oak



Leaf Characteristics

- broad, flat
- simple
- pinnately lobed
- bristle tips
- not deeply lobed
- thick, leathery, lobes wide toward tip



Fruit Characteristics

- acorn
- cup without fringe, without long stalk
- acorn no longer than 1"
- scales not swollen, mostly flat
- deeper cup
- cup covers 1/2 of nut
- nut usually light brown

Black Oak (Yellow Oak) *Quercus velutina*

This is a large tree, sometimes growing more than 100 feet in height. At 104 feet, the tallest example in Ohio lives in Summit County. Another massive specimen in Pike County has an average

crown spread of 93 feet. The thick, nearly black bark is marked with deep furrows and irregularly broken ridges. The characteristic inner bark is bright yellow to orange, hence the alternate common name. This tree grows on dry uplands, slopes and ridges. It occurs generally throughout Ohio, but is most abundant in the eastern part of the state and on the ancient, sandy beech ridges near Lake Erie. The wood, while hard and strong is not tough, checks while drying and generally is inferior to that of the [Red Oak](#). Still, it is used in much the same ways. Historically, the inner bark was important for its tannin and as a source of yellow dye. The bitter acorn is inedible.



Tree Size

height 60' - 80'
diameter 2' - 3'



Bark

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Chestnut Oak



Leaf Characteristics

- broad, flat
- simple
- not lobed
- rounded teeth
- regular teeth
- under surface mostly smooth



Fruit Characteristics

- acorn
- cup without fringe, with short stalk
- acorn 1" to 1.5" long
- scales not overlapping

Chestnut Oak (Rock Chestnut Oak)

Quercus prinus

The characteristic bark is dark and very rough. On older trees it typically is broken into long, V-shaped ridges that are separated by deep furrows. The tree grows on dry, rocky ridges and slopes. In Ohio it most frequently occurs in the hilly, southeastern part of the state, less frequently northward, and not at all



Tree Size

height 50' - 70'
diameter 1' - 2'

in the western areas. The wood is strong and durable, and mainly used for general construction and fuel. This tree probably was an important source of charcoal fuel for the historic iron furnaces of southeastern Ohio. The bark has greater tannin content than most other oaks, and was extensively used in the leather tanning trade. The acorns are an important source of food for various forms of wildlife.



Bark



Branch

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Red Oak (Northern Red Oak)



Leaf Characteristics

- broad, flat
- simple
- pinnately lobed
- bristle tips
- not deeply lobed
- thin leaves, lobes narrow toward tip

Fruit Characteristics

- acorn
- cup without fringe, without long stalk
- acorn no longer than 1"
- scales not swollen, mostly flat
- shallow cup
- acorn oblong

Red Oak (Northern Red Oak) *Quercus rubra*

The bark darkens and roughens near the base of older trees, while becoming fissured with broad, grayish ridges on the upper trunk. The tree grows on rich, well-drained soils. It occurs commonly throughout most of Ohio, except in poorly-drained or



swampy areas. The wood is similar to that of the [White Oak](#), and although more porous and less resistant to decay, is used extensively used in construction and interior work. The Red Oak grows more rapidly than most oaks and is useful for planting in residential areas. The acorns are not as tasty as those of the [White Oak](#), but many kinds of wildlife feed on them.

Tree Size

height 50' - 70'
diameter 1' - 3'



Bark

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White Oak



Leaf Characteristics

- broad, flat
- simple
- pinnately lobed
- smooth, without bristle tips
- main vein ends in lobe
- end lobe small
- end lobes similar to others



Fruit Characteristics

- acorn
- cup without fringe, without long stalk
- acorn no longer than 1"
- scales swollen, warty

White Oak *Quercus alba*

This is one of the largest trees of forests in the eastern United States. The tallest known in Ohio today is an 84-foot tree in Mahoning County. The distinctive bark is light ash-gray in color, and often fissured into scaly plates. The tree grows best on deep, well-drained upland soils.



Tree Size

Still, it is found in a wide variety of habitats throughout Ohio, probably occurring in every county. The close-grained, strong wood is one our best for furniture and hardwood flooring. Native American Indians made flour from its acorns. Both Indians and early settlers boiled the acorns to make them more palatable. Many kinds of wildlife feed on the acorns as well.

height 60' - 100'
diameter 2' - 4'



Bark

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Pitch Pine



Leaf Characteristics

- needle-like
- needles in clusters of 3

Fruit Characteristics

- cone or cone-like
- greater than 1 inch long
- scales with end wings
- cone dry and hard
- scales thick
- cone less than 4 inches long
- scales with spines
- egg-shaped cones
- flat at base

Pitch Pine

Pinus rigida

The bark of young trunks and branches of this tree is broken into reddish-brown scales. On older trunks these plate-like scales become flat-topped ridges separated by deep fissures. In 1964, a 126-foot tall specimen was recorded in

Hocking County. The Pitch Pine grows on dry ridges and slopes. This native of northeastern United States and adjacent parts of Canada is well known for its ability to survive fires. In Ohio its natural range is limited to the Allegheny Plateau region of the southeastern part of the state. Since Pitch Pine trees will grow in dry, rocky soil of otherwise barren land, they often are used for reforestation where few other trees will grow. Wood from this tree is too poor in quality for use in construction or furniture, although it sometimes is used for rough lumber. Its main use is for fuel and making charcoal.



Tree Size

height 50' - 60'
diameter 1' - 2'



Bark



Flower

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Red Pine

(Norway Pine)



Leaf Characteristics

- needle-like
- needles in clusters of 2
- long needles, 3" to 8" long
- brittle

Fruit Characteristics

- cone or cone-like
- cone greater than 1 inch long
- scales with end wings
- cone dry and hard
- scales thick
- cone less than 4 inches
- scales without spines
- scales smooth, without pyramid tips

Red Pine (Norway Pine) *Pinus resinosa*

The bark of this tree is reddish-brown in color. On older trunks the bark becomes broken into wide flat-topped ridges separated by shallow splits. The Red Pine is often confused with the

introduced Austrian Pine . However, the reddish-brown bark of the Red Pine should help to distinguish this tree from the Austrian Pine with its grayish to blackish bark. Typically, the Red Pine grows in light sandy soils. It seems to grow well in soils that are too poor for the larger White Pine . In spite of being native to North America (not Norway) this tree also is known as the Norway Pine. The Red Pine grows naturally in the northeastern United States and southeastern Canada. Builders use the wood of this tree in building construction, but it must be chemically treated in order to be used in contact with the soil. In marine applications it is used for piling and for ships' masts and spars. Also it often is used as an ornamental tree.



Tree Size

height 50' - 100'
diameter 1' - 1.5'



Bark



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White Pine (Eastern White Pine)



Leaf Characteristics

- needle-like
- needles in clusters of 5



Fruit Characteristics

- cone
- cones mostly larger than 1"
- each scale of cone with an end wing
- cone dry and hard
- scales thick
- cone 4" to 8" long, with stalk

White Pine (Eastern White Pine)

Pinus strobus

This is the largest conifer in the northeastern United States. The tallest of these trees in Ohio is a 137-foot giant in Ashland County. The bark on young trees is smooth and gray, while on older trees it is broken into small



rectangular blocks. It prefers moist, sandy loam soils. It is native only to a small portion of northeastern Ohio, but has been planted throughout most of the state. This tree is important for its lumber and is used extensively in reforestation. In the days of wooden sailing ships the long, straight trunks of this tree provided many ships' masts.

Tree Size

height 75' - 100'
diameter 2' - 4'



Bark



Flower

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Norway Spruce



Leaf Characteristics

- needle-like
- needles single, not in clusters
- shiny green

Fruit Characteristics

- cone or cone-like
- cones greater than 1 inch long
- scales with end wings
- cones dry and hard
- scales thin
- cones 4 - 8 inches long

Norway Spruce *Picea abies*

The bark is reddish-brown and roughened with thick scales. Twigs also are reddish-brown and somewhat rough. The cones are the largest of the spruces. In 1987, the Ohio Forestry Association recorded a 90-foot tall specimen of the Norway Spruce in Summit County, Ohio. This tree



Tree Size

generally grows taller than its relative, the [White Spruce](#). The Norway Spruce can tolerate a great deal of cold, winter weather. It grows well in a variety of moist soils in temperate habitats that are humid and cool. In its native habitat of northern and central Europe the Norway Spruce is a very important commercial tree. As an introduced tree in the United States, including Ohio, it is planted as an ornamental. And it is widely used in replacing forests. Also, the Christmas tree industry cultivates and uses this tree.

height 60' - 90'
diameter 1' - 3'



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White Spruce



Leaf Characteristics

- needle-like leaves
- needles single, not in clusters
- yellow-green to bluish, or white



Fruit Characteristics

- cone or cone-like
- cones greater than 1 inch long
- scales with end wings
- cones dry and hard
- scales thin
- cones less than 3 inches long

White Spruce *Picea glauca*

This is a medium-size conifer. A specimen recorded in Wayne County, Ohio, was 45 feet tall in 1963. The outer bark of the White Spruce is ash-brown in color, sometimes with a grayish cast. It is thin and scaly. When freshly exposed, the inner bark is silvery. Crushed needles from some



Tree Size

specimens of the White Spruce release a very disagreeable odor, compared by some with that of a skunk. As a result, some people call this the "Skunk Spruce." This tree generally does not grow as tall as its relative, the [Norway Spruce](#). The White Spruce can tolerate a great deal of cold, winter weather. It grows throughout much of Canada and Alaska, as far northward as trees will grow. In the United States it is native to parts of the northernmost states. In Ohio and elsewhere this tree is used as an ornamental. This is an important commercial tree in Canada where it is a major source of pulpwood. Native American Indians have used the pliable roots of the White Spruce for lacing their birch bark canoes, as well as in making various objects.

height 45' - 75'
diameter 1' - 2'



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Sycamore

(American Sycamore)



Leaf Characteristics

- broad, flat
- simple
- palmately lobed
- notches too shallow to be very apparent

Fruit Characteristics

- other fruit (not cone, winged, acorn, or in pod or capsule)
- tightly packed seeds
- seeds in capsules, packed in non-burl-like balls
- dry, single seed balls

Sycamore (American Sycamore)

Platanus occidentalis

Although not the tallest, this probably is the largest in diameter of trees in the eastern United States. The record holder in Ohio today has a diameter of more than 15 feet and a circumference of 48.5

feet. It probably would require at least 8 grown persons, holding each others' hands, to reach around this massive tree. This giant is 129 feet tall and grows in Ashland County. In keeping with its size, Sycamores have the largest leaves of any native tree in North America. Frequently, the trunk of a Sycamore will be divided into several large, secondary trunks. The bark of the Sycamore perhaps is its most striking feature: mottled creamy white and brown with the darker bark of older trees peeling away from the lighter-colored, younger bark. Typically, the Sycamore grows on bottomlands, floodplains, and on the banks of streams. It grows throughout Ohio. The tough, coarse-grained wood is difficult to split and work. It has various uses, including butchers' blocks. A few birds feed on the fruit, and several mammals eat twigs and bark. The related [Oriental and London Planetrees](#) are ornamental shade trees, frequently planted along streets. They can be distinguished from the Sycamore by the



Tree Size

height 80' - 100+'
diameter 3' - 8'



Bark

fruit: usually borne singly on long stalks on the Sycamore, but in strings of 2 to 4 on the Planetrees.



Size

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Tulip Tree (Yellow Poplar)



Leaf Characteristics

- broad, flat
- simple
- pinnately lobed
- smooth, without bristle tips
- main vein ends in notch

Fruit Characteristics

- cone or cone-like
- cone longer than 1"
- cone soft & fleshy
- scale ends with single wing
- narrow, elongate scales
- seed cavity 4-angled

Tuliptree (Yellow Poplar) *Liriodendron tulipifera*

This is the tallest hardwood tree in eastern North America, reportedly reaching 200 feet in height. At 164 feet, a specimen of this tree growing in Belmont County is the largest single tree presently known in Ohio. Coincidentally, both the bright green leaves (in



outline) and greenish-yellow flowers are tulip-shaped. The tree grows in deep, rich, and moist soil, and commonly is found in bottomlands. Its widespread distribution in Ohio is limited by drier portions of the west-central and northwestern parts of the state. The wood is soft and weak, but is very easily worked, and has many uses. Early settlers used the wood extensively in building, and made home remedies from the inner bark of the roots. Bees make honey from the blossoms, and various wildlife eat the fruit and twigs.

Tree Size

height 80' - 150'
diameter 4' - 6'



Bark



Twigs and Buds



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Black Walnut



Leaf Characteristics

- broad, flat
- compound
- pinnately compound
- margins toothed
- leaflets similar in size and shape
- leaves alternate
- no wing-like projections
- without milky sap
- leaflets greater than 8 inches long
- end leaflet small or absent

Fruit Characteristics

- other fruit (not cone, winged, acorn, or in pod or capsule)
- enclosed by husk
- thick husk
- husk without seams, nut with ridges
- oblong, nut ridges rounded

Black Walnut *Juglans nigra*

The Black Walnut is one of the tall trees of Ohio's original forests. Ohio's tallest today is 105 feet and grows in Holmes County. The tree commonly

is found in bottomlands, but also grows on hillsides with rich soils. It is found throughout most of Ohio except in prairie areas. Its rich, dark brown, close-grained wood makes this tree one of the most valuable of our hardwoods. Historically, the wood was widely used in building construction. Today, it is prized for cabinet work and fine furniture. Humans compete with squirrels for the tasty nuts. Because of a toxic substance coming from the roots of the Black Walnut, many garden plants such as tomatoes and blackberries cannot grow under these trees.



Tree Size

height 70' - 100'
diameter 2' - 4'



Bark



Twigs and Buds



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