

Key to the Woody Plants of the HCCC Nature Center

1. Leaves acicular, needle-like, or scale-like; usually persistent.....go to 2
1. Leaves broad and flat. Deciduous.....go to 10
2. Leaves awl-like or scale-like; low, prostrate creeping shrub.....Dwarf Juniper (*Juniperus communis*)
2. Leaves needle-likego to 3
3. Leaves borne in fascicles or groups of 2-5.....go to 4
3. Leaves scattered, solitary, not in groups.....go to 6
4. Leaves occurring in groups of 2-3.....go to 5
4. Leaves occurring in groups ofEastern White Pine (*Pinus strobus*)
5. Leaves longer, 4-6 inchesRed Pine (*Pinus resinosa*)
5. Leaves shorter, 1-3 inches.....Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*)
6. Leaves flattened in cross-section, flexible, soft to the touch.....go to 7
6. Leaves square or diamond-shaped in cross-section, stiff, sharp-pointed.....go to 8
7. Leaves dark green on top. Appearance of being borne on two, opposite sides of twig.....Eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*)
7. Leaves lighter green. Spirally arranged on the twig.....Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)
8. Twigs pubescent. Leaves yellowish-green, lustrous.....Red Spruce (*Picea rubens*)

- 8. Twigs not pubescent, glabrous instead.....go to 9

- 9. Twigs reddish-brown, long lateral branches. Cones 10-18 cm.Norway Spruce (*Picea Abies*)
- 9. Twigs yellowish-brown or gray. Leaves glaucous. Cones 3-5 cm.....White Spruce (*Picea glauca*)

- 10. Growth form a vine.....go to 11
- 10. Growth form not a vine, rather a tree or shrub.....go to 14

- 11. Leaves simple.....go to 13
- 11. Leaves compound.....go to 12

- 12. Leaves pinnately compound having 3 coarsely toothed leaflets.....Poison Ivy (*Rhus radicans*)
- 12. Leaves palmately compound having 5 coarsely toothed leaflets..Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)

- 13. Leaves broad cordate. Coarsely toothed, sometimes lobed.....Wild Grape (*Vitis sp.*)
- 13. Leaves ovate to elliptical, unlobed, margins serrate...Bittersweet (*Celastrus sp.*)

- 14. Growth form a shrub or small understory tree.....go to 15
- 14. Growth form a tree.....go to 27

- 15. Opposite or sub-opposite leaf arrangement.....go to 16
- 15. Alternate leaf arrangement.....go to 20

- 16. Opposite leaf arrangement.....go to 17

- 16. Subopposite leaf arrangement; leaves dark green on top; arcuate
veination.....Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*)

- 17. Leaf margin serrated.....go to 19
- 17. Leaf margin entire or nearly so.....go to 18

- 18. Leaves with clearly arcuate veination..... Dogwoods (*Cornus* sp.)
- 18. Leaves without arcuate veination.....Honeysuckles (*Lonicera* sp.)

- 19. Petiole winged.....Nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*)
- 19. Petiole glandular at upper end.....Highbush Cranberry (*Viburnum trilobum*)

- 20. Twigs having thorns, spines or prickles.....go to 21
- 20. Twigs not having thorns, spines or prickles.....go to 22

- 21. Twigs having long thorns. Leaves variable.....Hawthorns (*Crataegus* sp.)
- 21. Twigs having prickles. Often very stout.....Multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*)

- 22. Leaf margin entire or wavy, not toothed, or lobed.....go to 24
- 22. Leaf margin serrated.....go to 23

- 23. Leaf margin serrated.....June-berries (*Amelanchier* sp.)
- 23. Leaf margin doubly serrated.....American Hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*)

- 24. Leaf with 4-5 pairs of arcuate lateral Alternate-leaf Dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*)
- 24. Lateral veins not arcuate. Straightgo to 25
- 25. Leaves rounded to egg-shaped.....Witch-hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)
- 25. Leaves much longer than wide, lance shaped, elongated.....go to 26
- 26. Leaf margin entire. Pleasant spicy smell when crushed.....Spice Bush (*Lindera benzoin*)
- 26. Leaves and twigs with many silvery scales.....Silverberry (*Elaeagnus* sp.)
- 27. Leaves opposite on twiggo to 28
- 27. Leaves alternate on twiggo to 32
- 28. Leaves simple, 3-5 lobesgo to 30
- 28. Leaves pinnately compoundgo to 29
- 29. Leaflets with large teeth; shapes variable; twigs with waxy covering..... Boxelder (*Acer negundo*)
- 29. Leaflets entire, shape and size consistent; twigs not waxy White Ash (*Fraxinus americana*)
- 30. Leaf with three lobes; serrated margingo to 31
- 30. Leaf five lobed, entire. Sides of terminal lobe parallelSugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*)
- 31. Leaves green on both sides; two bud scalesStriped Maple (*Acer pensylvanicum*)

- 31. Leaves whitish beneath; several bud scalesRed Maple (*Acer rubrum*)

- 32. Leaves simple or lobedgo to 37
- 32. Leaves pinnately compoundgo to 33

- 33. Leaves with more than 10 pinnaego to 34
- 33. Leaves with less than 10 pinnaego to 36

- 34. Twig extremely hairy; bud totally covered by petioleStaghorn Sumac (*Rhus typhina*)
- 34. Twig not hairy. Stout, smoothgo to 35

- 35. Terminal leaflet present, well developed. Similar to lateral leafletsButternut (*Juglans cinerea*)
- 35. Terminal leaflet absent or poorly developed.Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*)

- 36. 7-9 leaflets. Terminal bud naked, sulfur yellow Bitternut Hickory (*Carya cordiformis*)
- 36. 5-7 leaflets. Terminal bud having distinct scalesShagbark Hickory (*Carya ovata*)

- 37. Petiole laterally flattened in cross-sectiongo to 38
- 37. Petiole terete or rounded in cross-sectiongo to 40

- 38. Leaves ovoid, round, finely serrated. Twigs waxy Quaking Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*)
- 38. Leaves dentate. Teeth sharp pointed or roundedgo to 39

39. Teeth large, rather sharp pointedBig-tooth Aspen (*Populus grandidentata*)

39. Teeth rounded, each tipped by a minute gland Eastern Cottonwood (*Populus deltoids*)

40. Leaves round or sharp lobedgo to 41

40. Leaves not lobedgo to 42

41. Lobes sharp-pointed, each tipped by a bristle Northern Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*)

41. Lobes round-pointed, not bristle-tippedWhite Oak (*Quercus alba*)

42. Leaf margin finely or coarsely serrated or dentatego to 45

42. Leaf margin doubly serrated. The teeth having teethgo to 43

43. Surface of leaf scabrous, rough sandpaper textureAmerican Elm (*Ulmus americana*)

43. Surface of leaf smooth to the touchgo to 44

44. Twigs with distinctive wintergreen taste; buds hairy Yellow Birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*)

44. Twigs with wintergreen taste; buds rounded, greenish E. Hophornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*)

45. Leaf finely serratedgo to 46

45. Leaf dentate; lateral veins each ending in a toothgo to 47

46. Leaves cordate, heart shaped. Bud with two valvate scalesAmerican Basswood
(*Tilia americana*)

46. Leaves oblong, underside of main-vein with orange pubescenceBlack Cherry (*Prunus
serotina*)

47. Leaves not elongated. Buds 4-5 times longer than wide American Beech (*Fagus
grandifolia*)

47. Leaves elongated. Buds short, roundedAmerican Chestnut (*Castanea
dentata*)