

## TREE IDENTIFICATION KEY

Tree has needles use.....use **CONIFEROUS TREE KEY**

Tree has broad leaves .....use **DECIDUOUS TREE KEY**

### CONIFEROUS TREE KEY

1. Needles in bundles or groups (2)

1. Needles single or flattened and scaly (3)

2. Needles in clusters of more than 5 needles.....**Tamarack** (*Larix laricina*)

2. Needles 2 to 5 per bundle: Pine species (see a-c below)

a. Five needles per bundle .....**White Pine** (*Pinus strobus*)

b. Needles in pairs, 3 to 4 inches long.....**Red Pine** (*Pinus resinosa*)

c. Needles in pairs, under 2 inches long, bark dark gray..... **Jack Pine** (*Pinus banksiana*)

3. Needles scaly and flattened (4)

3. Needles single (5)

4. Has cones, scales flat, branches fan-like.....**Northern White Cedar** (*Thuja occidentalis*)

4. Has berries, may have scaly and prickly needles on same tree, scales rounded..... **Eastern Red Cedar** (*Juniperus virginiana*)

5. Needles flat (6)

5. Needles square, 4-sided, stiff, sharp: Spruce species (see a-b below)

a. Needles 1/3 to 3/4 inch long, twigs hairless.....**White Spruce** (*Picea glauca*)

b. Needles 1/3 to 3/4 inch long, twigs have hair, grows in wet areas....**Black Spruce** (*Picea mariana*)

6. Needles 1/2 inch long with short petiole.....**Eastern Hemlock** (*Tsuga canadensis*)

6. Needles 3/4 inch to 1 1/4 inches long, no petiole, bubbles in bark.....**Balsam Fir** (*Abies balsamea*)



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9. Bark not papery (10)

9. Bark papery: Birch species (see a-c below)

a. Leaves single-toothed, white peeling bark....**Paper Birch** (*Betula papyrifera*)

b. Leaves double-toothed, dull green leaves, yellow or bronzed bark.....

**Yellow Birch** (*Betula alleghaniensis*)

c. Leaves double-toothed, shiny green leaves, reddish-brown to silvery-gray bark.....**River Birch** (*Betula nigra*)

10. Leaf petioles flat (11)

10. Leaf petiole round (12)

11. Leaf triangular-shaped with coarse teeth..... **Eastern Cottonwood** (*Populus deltoides*)

11. Leaf oval: Aspen species (see a-b below)

a. Leaves have small, fine teeth less than 1/16 inch..... **Quaking Aspen**  
(*Populus tremuloides*)

b. Leaves have large teeth..... **Big-toothed Aspen** (*Populus grandidentata*)

12. Leaves nearly as wide as long (13)

12. Leaves longer than wide (14)

13. Leaves finely toothed ..... **Balsam Poplar** (*Populus balsamifera*)

13. Leaves coarsely toothed..... **Basswood** (*Tilia americana*)

14. Leaf less than 3 times as long as wide (15)

14. Leaf at least 3 times as long as wide.....**Willow species**

15. Leaf veins thin and branch often (16)

15. Leaf veins thick and run from center to edge of leaf without branching (17)

16. Fine blunt teeth, leaves 2 to 6 inches long, bark dark... **Black Cherry** (*Prunus serotina*)

16. Sharp pointed teeth, leaves 2 to 4 inches long and hairy... **Hackberry** (*Celtis occidentalis*)

17. Leaf shiny and leathery (thick), coarse sharp teeth.... **Beech** (*Fagus grandifolia*)

17. Leaf dull and rough (18)

18. Most leaf bases even, rough, reddish, scaled bark.....

**Ironwood** (*Ostrya virginiana*)

18. Most leaf bases even, smooth, muscular, blue-gray bark: **Musclewood** (*Carpinus caroliniana*)

18. Leaf base uneven, seeds flat and papery....

**Elm species** (including American, Rock, and Slippery Elm)

