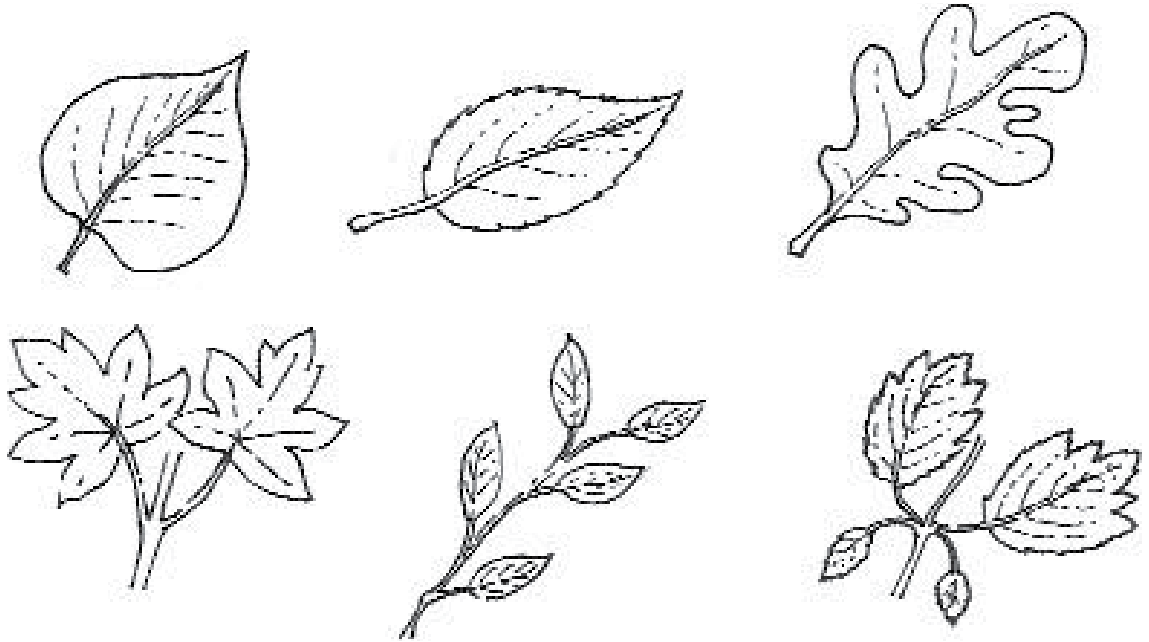
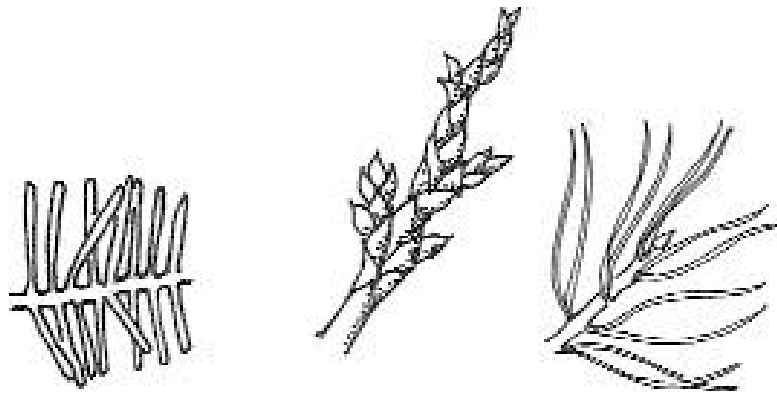


Key to Identifying Trees by the Shape of Their Leaf

Some examples of broad leaves



Some examples of needle leaves



Key for Identifying Trees with Needles or Scales

Feature to Look For

Tree Species

Trees with scale-like leaves

- Cones egg-shaped
- Cones round
- Cones fleshy and berry-like

western redcedar
yellow-cedar
Rocky Mountain
juniper

Trees with needles in bundles of 2, 3 or 5

- Needles in bundles of 2
- Needles in bundles of 3
- Needles in bundles of 5, small cones, grows at high elevations
- Needles in bundles of 5, large cones, grows at high elevations
- Needles in bundles of 5, large cones, not at high elevations

lodgepole pine
ponderosa or
yellow pine
whitebark pine
limber pine
western white pine

Trees with bundles of many needles

- Bundles of 15 to 30 needles, grows in southern B.C.
- Bundles of 15 to 25 needles, grows in northern B.C.
- Bundles of 30 to 40 needles, grows in subalpine areas

western larch
tamarack
alpine larch

Feature to Look For

Tree Species

Trees with needles not in bundles

Needles with four sides and stalks

- Grows at lower elevations, needles sharp and stiff, edge of cone scales round
- Grows at higher elevations, edge of cone scales ragged
- Grows in coastal areas, needles slightly flattened
- Grows in northern areas, clump of branches on the top of tree

white spruce
Engelmann spruce
Sitka spruce
black spruce

Needles flat, usually with a notch at the end; cones upright

- Needles on upper side of the twig point sideways
- Needles on upper side of the twig point upwards
- All needles appearing to point upwards

grand fir
amabilis fir
subalpine fir

Needles flat, with blunt ends

- Needles different lengths, top branch of tree droops
- Needles same length, curved upwards, grows at higher elevations

western hemlock
mountain hemlock

Needles flat with pointed tips

- Cones with a three-forked bract
- Fruit red and berry-like

Douglas-fir
western yew



Key for Identifying Trees with Broad Leaves

Feature to Look For

Tree Species

Leaves in opposite pairs

Leaves no lobes, veins parallel, showy white flowers

Pacific dogwood

Leaves with 5 lobes, very large

bigleaf maple

Leaves with 3 to 5 lobes and coarsely toothed edges

Douglas maple

Leaves with 7 to 9 lobes, almost circular

vine maple

Leaves alternating

Leaves evergreen, red bark peels in flakes

arbutus

Leaves oval, branches have thorns

black hawthorn

Leaves oblong, veins parallel

cascara

Leaves with rounded lobes, with acorns

Garry oak

Trees with edible fruit

Small red apples, egg-shaped leaves

Pacific crab apple

Long cluster of dark purple berries

choke cherry

Flat-topped cluster of bright red berries

pin cherry

Loose cluster of dark red berries

bitter cherry

Feature to Look For

Tree Species

Trees with catkins

Catkins woody

Leaves with rounded teeth and edges rolled under

red alder

Leaf edges are double-toothed, small tree or shrub

mountain alder

Catkins fall apart easily

Leaves triangle-shaped, bark peels readily

paper birch

Leaves oval-shaped, bark shiny and dark

water birch

Catkins bead-like

releasing fluffy white seeds

balsam poplar

black cottonwood

Catkins small

smooth white bark, leaves "tremble" in the wind

trembling aspen

