Know where you live

Skills to get to know 20 common tree species
… and then some

Audio Included

A:

1. Basic structure
    a. Leaf is compound - - - - - - - - - - Hickory
    b. Leaf is simple - - - - - - - - - - - - - go to 2
2. Edge
    a. Edge is lobed - - - - - - - - - - - - - go to 3
    b. Edge is entire - - - - - - - - - - - - - go to 4
3. Veins
    a. Palmate veins - - - - - - - - - - - - - Maple
    b. Pinnate veins - - - - - - - - - - - - - - Oak
4. Margin
    a. Margin is smooth - - - - - - - - - - - a whole branch of those maddeningly oval leaves = MOL

        (maybe an Osage Orange or just some generic leaves that an artist drew without really knowing)

    a. Margin is wavy - - - - - - - - - - - - - go to 5
1. Shape
    a. Fan shaped, including the veins - - - Gingko

B:

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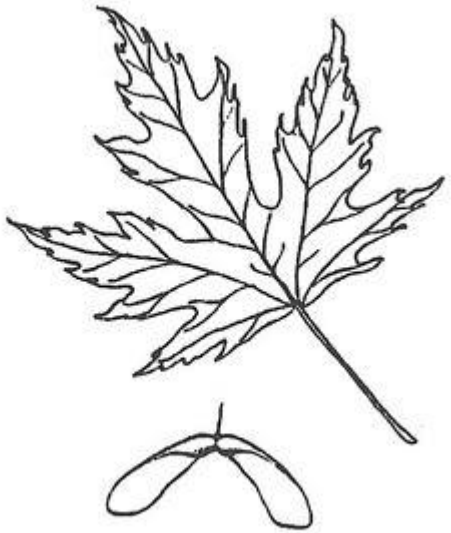

B:↗

Audio Included

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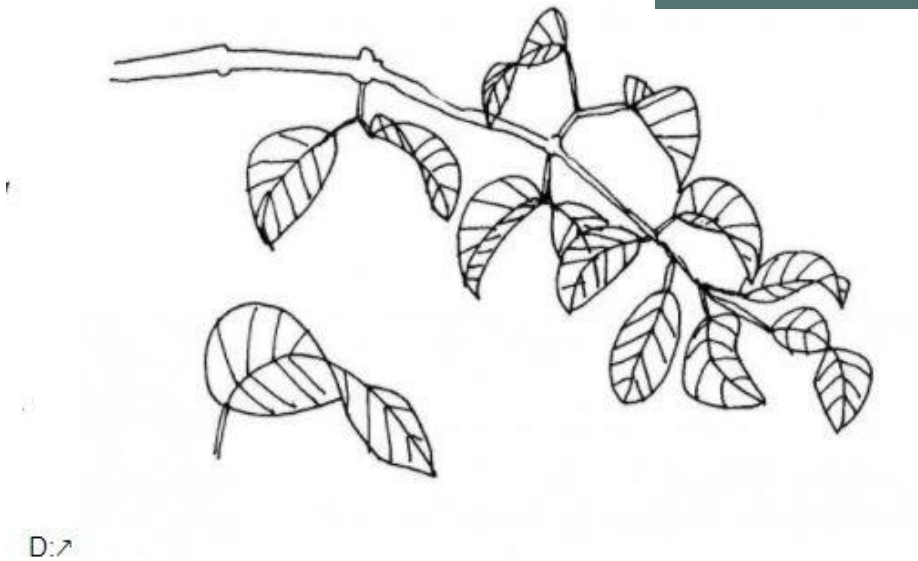

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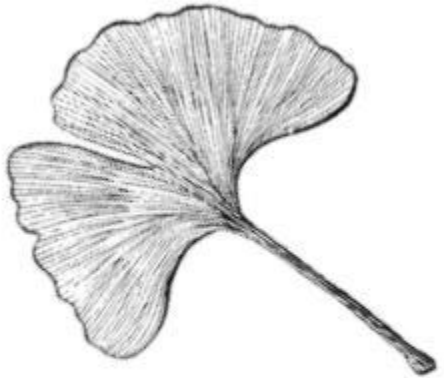
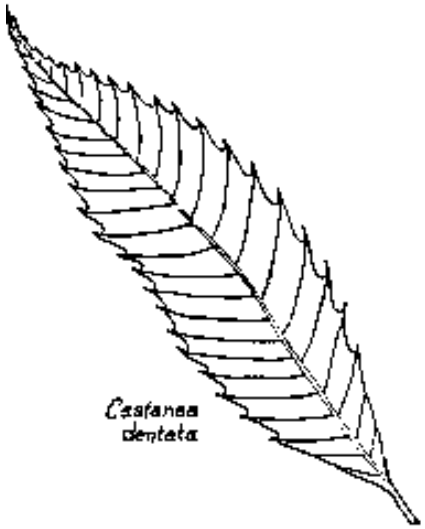


E:↗

Audio Included

Vein patterns

Pinnate (most)



like the vanes of a feather.

Palmate

Parallel … super uncommon among trees

Truly distinctive features that leave no doubt about the ID

Aspen - Won’t spin

They have a flattened petiole, which catches the wind like the blades of a wind chime.

Oh, and weakly veined

Sandpaper texture = Elm

Also, asymmetrical base …
aka diagonal across the petiole

Asymmetrical across the base of the petiole? ...

Witchhazel … they’re blooming right now, too!

Or the leaf of a tree that had a hard time growing … truly, you need to look at several leaves on each tree to know which is “classic” or that represents the general shape of most leaves that you’d find on that tree

More distinctive

Acorns? = Oak

Wings (samara) = Maple

Another asymmetrical base?

= Basswood (aka Linden)

(note, the edge is toothed)

Audio Included

Distinctive shapes

Redbud is heart-shaped, but
No teeth and symmetrical

Hawthorne have thorns … so do Black Locust

Oooh, and Black Locust has tons of small oval leaflets,
btw, Honey Locust has many times more tiny long leaflets

Speaking of distinctive ...

Honey Locust - it’s bipinnate - a twice-cut compound leaf

How about Sassafras?!

Ghost, Mitten, or MOL!!

Even more distinctive - this one has opposite branching

All you really need is to spot that fruit!

Red Maple, common

Striped Maple, “goosefoot”

Mountain Maple at higher

Silver Maple, Japanese Maple, Freeman Maple

The undersides look silvery when blowing in the wind

A hybrid cross between Red and Silver Maples

How about the bark?

Beech is smooth, so is Striped Maple aka Goosefoot Maple

The bark peels on Shagbark Hickory and Paper Birch and a really old Maple

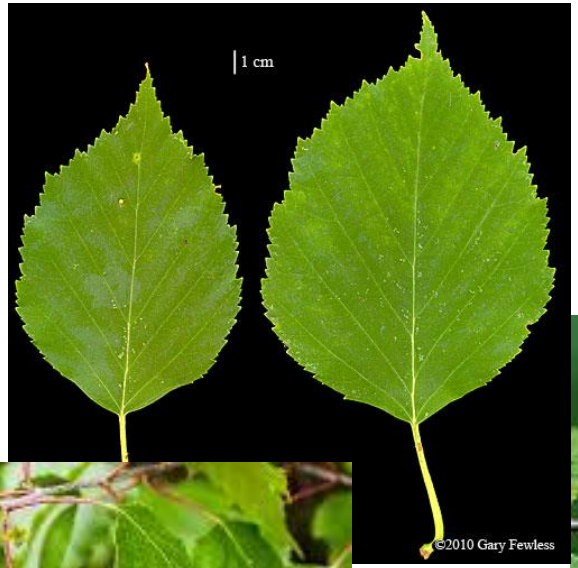
River Birch bark reddish/golden

Musclewood, aka Bluebeech bark like an athlete's limb

Birch leaves … toothed, with strong veins

Audio Included

Paper Birch

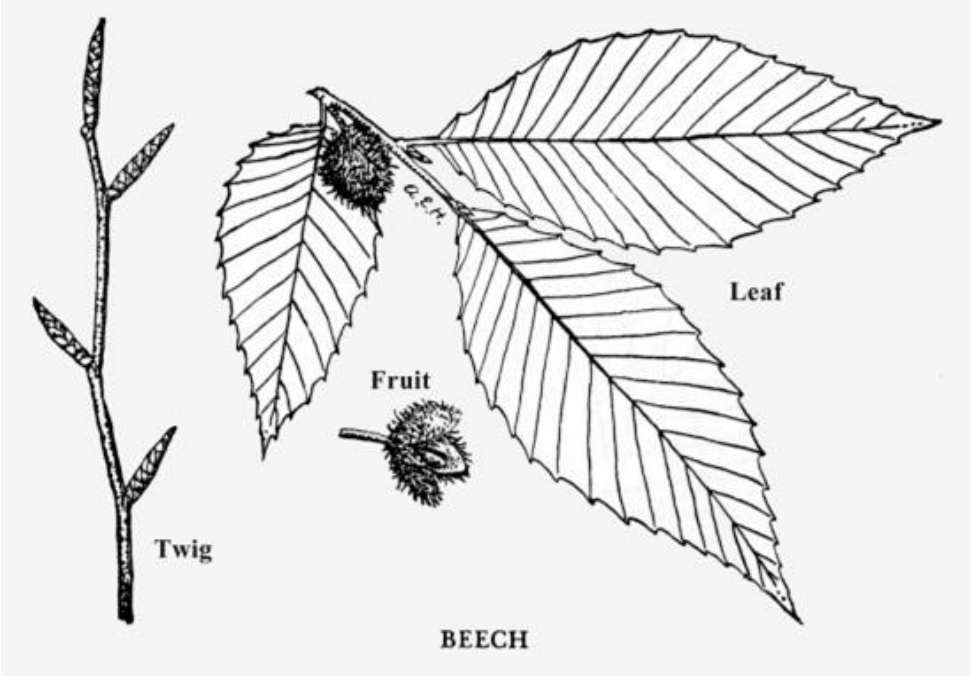


Ooh, and Black and Yellow Birch bark are scratch-&-sniff sensations!

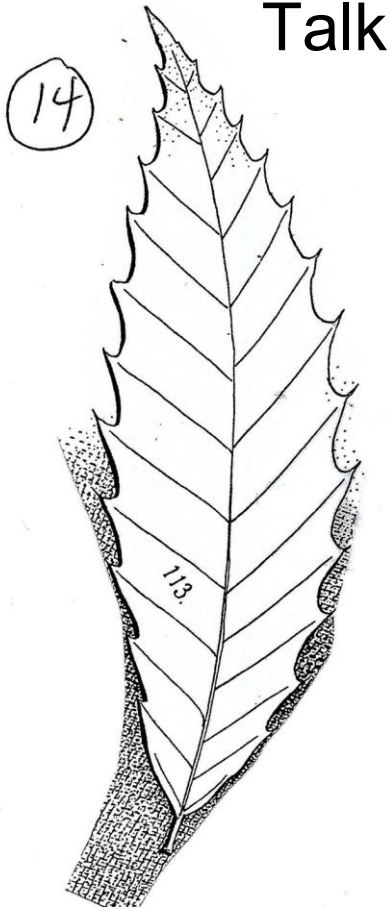
Does it smell like Wintergreen or Root beer to you?

Gray Birch

Strongly veined also include Oaks and Chestnut and Beech



Talk about distinctive … and quite the history, too



Used to be more common than oaks, but an introduced fungus kills off the trees, once their trunks reach dbh 4”+

The leaf is almost canoe shaped, a solid 8-12 inches, with a super-short petiole
(round, it spins)

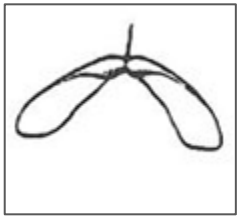
Now we just find tiny whips around a dead snag,
never reaching more than
15 feet before they die

How about fruits?

Little Leaf Linden

White Ash

Kousa Dogwood



Maple

Black Cherry (native) added bonuses for IDing ...

Fuzz, on the underside, along the mid-rib

Oh, and fruit … cherries!

Audio Included

Weakly veined: fruits and other MOL’s

Flip it over to see weakly netted veins, they taper at the tip … classic for a fruit

Apple: lots of tiny teeth, with a tapered tip that twists

More MOL’s

Magnolia - weakly veined, shiny, smooth margin

Plum and Pear

Alder - strongly veined, distinctive fruit

I’ve always called this a pear, Trinity Pear?

Notice that those are not just teeth, but appear to be bristles

Around the other Schools:

CHCS

- Black Walnut
- Norway Maples with maroon leaves (looks like Sugar Maple)
- Amelanchier
- Little Leaf Linden

JBMS

- Tuliptree
- Japanese Maple

SRE

- Honey Locust
- Bradford Pear
- Chinese Chestnut
- Freeman Maple

Am. Beech and Horse Chestnut

Tuliptree - two different leaf shapes

Northern Catalpa - no teeth

Compare Sugar Maple and Sycamore

Sycamore

American Beech

Check out the teeth at the end of each vein

Copper Beech

You don’t see a tooth at the end of each vein, and the leaves turn coppery-red in the fall

Still working on the ID of this one

Leaf has rounded teeth

… Ack!! I forgot to look at the branching!!

(I'll have to send my dh out to check for me, since it's on the path right next to where he works

Will the bark help?

Phew!

I took a pic of the tree, looking up the trunk, looks like the branching is alternate