

Key to the Woody Plants

The following key to the woody plants of the park and adjacent areas is based almost entirely on leaf and twig characters. Hence, reasonably mature leaves should be used.

Meanings of terms, such as "opposite," "alternate," "simple," and "compound," can be ascertained from the illustrations in figures 19 and 20. A ruler is provided at the edge of the inside back cover for measurements needed in the key.

In using the key, you will find that there are always two choices. These are indicated both by indentation and by paired symbols (A and AA, B and

BB, etc.). Generally, it is better to read both choices, then choose the better one. As an example, suppose we had a Spotted Oak (fig. 21) which we wish to identify. The leaves are not needle- or scale-like (as described at A), so we choose AA. The leaves are arranged alternately on the stem (one at a node), so we would choose C not CC, where the leaves are to be opposite (two at a node). The leaves are simple, so choose D rather than DD. But the leaves are not entire; instead they are lobed, so we pass E and go to EE, where it states that the leaves are toothed or lobed. The plant is not a vine but a tree, so choose SS. The leaves are lobed halfway or more to the middle, so we choose V. Soon you are at Spotted Oak. Good luck! Have fun!

- A. Trees evergreen and with leaves either scale-like and small or needle-like.
 - B. Leaves scale-like, most of them hardly an eighth of an inch long; fruits berry-like Eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*)
 - BB. Leaves needle-like, 2 inches or more long. Short leaf pine (*Pinus echinata*; fig. 22)
- AA. Trees, shrubs or vines, but not with leaves as above.
 - C. Leaves alternate.
 - D. Leaves simple.
 - E. Leaves entire.
 - F. Leaves about as long as wide, or at least less than twice as long as wide.
 - G. Vines.
 - H. Stems prickly. Greenbrier (*Smilax*)
 - HH. Stems not prickly. Red berry moonseed (*Cocculus carolinus*)
 - GG. Trees or shrubs.
 - I. Veins 5 or more from the base of the heart-shaped leaf. Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*; fig. 24)
 - II. Veins 3 from the lop-sided leaf base. Georgia hackberry (*Celtis tenuifolia*; fig. 25)
 - FF. Leaves 2 or more times longer than wide.
 - J. Woody vines. Bama supplejack (*Berchemia scandens*)
 - JJ. Trees or shrubs.
 - K. Trees.
 - L. Leaves tipped with a bristle an eighth of an inch or more long and the leaf stalk less than 0.5 inch long Willow oak (*Quercus phellos*)
 - LL. Leaves without bristle tips, or if bristle tipped, the leaf stalk an inch or more long.
 - M. Leaves with 3 major veins (best seen from beneath) arising from the base of the lop-sided leaf. Sugar hackberry (*Celtis laevigata*)
 - MM. Leaves with several veins arising along the length of the midrib.
 - N. Larger leaf blades over 8 inches long ... Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*)
 - NN. Leaf blades not over 4 inches long.
 - O. End of leaves rounded ... Chittamwood (*Bumelia lanuginosa*)
 - OO. End of leaves with a distinct point or tip.
 - P. Leaves glossy, the twigs often with thorns about 0.5 inch long Osage orange (*Maclura pomifera*)
 - PP. Leaves not glossy and twigs without thorns. Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*)
 - Black tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*)
(These two are most easily separated by the fruits, those of persimmon being a nearly spherical berry often over an inch in diameter, and those of black tupelo being elongate fleshy fruits 0.5 inch long).
 - KK. Shrubs.
 - Q. Leaves glossy, thick and leathery; tall shrubs. Tree huckleberry (*Vaccinium arboreum*; fig. 23)
 - QQ. Leaves not glossy or thick; plants usually not over 4 feet tall.
 - R. Leaves very often rounded at the base Deerberry (*Vaccinium stamineum*)
 - RR. Leaves tapering to the base; plants commonly not over 2 feet tall. Blueridge blueberry (*Vaccinium vacillans*)
 - EE. Leaves toothed or lobed (sometimes the lobes or teeth only near the end of the leaf).
 - S. Vines.