

Key to the Identification of Trees and Shrubs Common to Allegany County

(most ornamental species are not included)

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1. Leaves needle-like, scalelike, or narrowly flattened, less than 3 mm wide **go to 2**
2. Leaves scalelike or narrowly triangular **go to 3**
3. Twigs flattened; fruit in a small tan cone **Eastern white cedar *Thuja occidentalis***
3. Twigs not flattened; fruit blue and berrylike **go to 4**
4. Leaves narrowly triangular (pointed) **Common Juniper *Juniperus communis***
4. Leaves scalelike (not pointed) **Red cedar *Juniperus virginiana***
2. Leaves needle-like or narrow and flattened **go to 5**
5. Leaves in fascicles (clusters) of two or more **go to 6**
6. Leaves in groups of 2 to 5; usually with a thin sheath at the base **go to 7**
7. Leaves slender; 5 per fascicle; cones slender and flexible
Eastern White Pine *Pinus strobus*
7. Leaves 2 per fascicle; cones rigid **go to 8**
8. Leaves generally less than 3 inches long, twisted **Scotch Pine *Pinus sylvestris***
8. Leaves more than 4 inches long, not twisted **Red Pine *Pinus resinosa***
6. Fascicles containing more than five leaves; deciduous
Larch or Tamarack *Larix laricina*
5. Leaves produced singly **go to 9**
9. Leaves somewhat 4-sided, not flattened **go to 10**
10. Cones 2.5 to 7 inches long; flexible scales **go to 11**
11. Branches horizontal to drooping; needles pungent when crushed
Colorado Blue Spruce *Picea pungens*
11. Branches with tips upturned; not pungent when crushed
Norway Spruce *Picea abies*
10. Cones 1 - 2.5 inches long **Red Spruce *Picea rubens***
9. Leaves flattened **go to 12**
12. Leaf abruptly narrowed onto short stalk; white lines on under surface; cones terminal
Eastern Hemlock *Tsuga canadensis*
12. Leaves not abruptly narrowed onto short stalks; cones on upper side of branches
Balsam Fir *Abies balsamea*
1. Leaves broad, not needle-like or scale-like **go to 13**
13. Leaves opposite **go to 14**
14. Leaves simple **go to 15**
15. Small tree or shrub **go to 16**
16. Leaf margins entire, not lobed or toothed **go to 17**
17. Leaves heart-shaped
Common Lilac *Syringa vulgaris*
17. Leaves not heart-shaped **go to 18**
18. Veins follow leaf margins **Dogwoods *Cornus spp.***
18. Veins do not follow leaf margins **Honeysuckles *Lonicera spp.***
16. Leaves toothed, not lobed, twigs ending in sharp spines
Common Buckthorn *Rhamnus cathartica*

- 36. Leaves linear or lanceolate **go to 37**
 - 37. Leaves linear or hairy **go to 38**
 - 38. Leaves hairy beneath **go to 39**
 - 39. Stipules often large; leaves toothed mostly above the middle **Pussy Willow *Salix discolor***
 - 39. Stipules small or lacking; leaves toothed to the base **Weeping Willow *Salix babylonica***
 - 38. Leaves not hairy beneath **go to 40**
 - 40. Leaf tips pointed; stipules conspicuous **Black Willow *Salix nigra***
 - 40. Leaf tips not pointed; stipules small or lacking **White Willow *Salix alba***
 - 37. Lanceolate leaves **go to 41**
 - 41. Tufts of red or white hairs along mid-rib **Black Cherry *Prunus serotina***
 - 41. No hairs along mid-rib **Pin Cherry *Prunus pensylvanica***
- 33. Margins of leaves doubly serrate **go to 42**
 - 42. Leaves triangular **White (gray) Birch *Betula populifolia***
 - 42. Leaves ovate **go to 43**
 - 43. Base of leaves oblique **Slippery Elm *Ulmus rubra***
 - 43. Base of leaves not oblique **go to 44**
 - 44. Twigs with wintergreen flavor **go to 45**
 - 45. Leaves short-pointed, rounded at base, bark on trunk shiny yellowish, peeling, hairy twigs **Yellow Birch *Betula alleghaniensis***
 - 45. Leaves long-pointed, often notched at base, bark on trunk black, not papery, twigs not hairy **Sweet Birch, *Betula lenta***
 - 44. Twigs without wintergreen flavor **go to 46**
 - 46. Bark smooth, light gray **American Hornbeam (Blue Beech) *Carpinus caroliniana***
 - 46. Bark scaly, scales easily rubbed off **Eastern Hop Hornbeam (Ironwood) *Ostrya virginiana***
- 23. Leaves Compound **go to 47**
 - 47. Margins of leaflets entire **Black Locust *Robinia pseudoacacia***
 - 47. Margins of leaflets toothed (serrate) **go to 48**
 - 48. Leaflets 5-11 (Hickories) **go to 49**
 - 49. Leaflets 5-7, with upper 3 largest **Shagbark Hickory *Carya ovata***
 - 49. Leaflets 7-11, long narrow, sharp-pointed **Bitternut Hickory *Carya cordiformis***
 - 48. Leaflets 11-23 (Walnuts) **Butternut *Juglans cinerea***