CTPA Arboriculture 101

Tree Identification

Introduction, Conifers and **Part I Broadle** af Trees

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University of Georgia at www.forestryimages.org, UCONN Plant Database and Vanderbilt bio images

Objectives

as stated in "DEP Info for Applicants for an Arborist License"

"Identify all common trees found in the region in their summer and winter condition, including but not limited to" those listed.

- Any tree on CAES grounds may be on the exam
- Common names only

"Know the healthy form of each tree, and its appearance and rate of growth" as well as their strength characteristics

"Know the suitability of trees to different sites" for soil, moisture and sunlight

Objectives cont.

- ID trees using buds and twigs, leaves, bark, silhouette, flowers and fruit
- Use common insect damage, disease and physiological disorders to help ID trees
- Learn how to use a key
- Expand your vocabulary to help describe and ID trees

Leaf and Bud Arrangement





Alternate Leaves and buds arranged in alternating sides of stem elm, oak, beech, birch

Whorled

3 or more buds and leaves at a node catalpa, paulownia

Opposite Leaves and buds directly across from each other on stem maple, ash

Subopposite Leaves and buds slightly offset from each other on stem katsura, buckthorn

"MAD CAP HORSE"

Mnemonic device to help remember Trees with opposite branches:

[M]aple, [A]sh, [D]ogwood
[Cap]rifoliaceae Family - honeysuckle, lilac and viburnums
[Horse] chestnut/buckeye
Also, catalpa and paulownia which may be opposite or whorled.

Leaf Types - Broadleaf Trees **Simple Leaf** Bud is located at the base of a single leaf and the stem Sinus space between two lobes Midrib – central vein Lobe – projected part of leaf Vein – conductive Margin – outer edge vessels Blade – broad flat portion of leaf **Base – bottom** Petiole – leaf stalk Stipules – leaf-like organ at base of leaf i.e. sycamore, tulip polar Bud – undeveloped leaf, flower or shoot

Compound Leaf

Bud is located at the base of a structure with more than one leaflet



Leaflets attached along a single stem (rachis); most common

i.e. ash, hickory, walnut, ailanthus

Leaflets all attached to a common point like the spokes of a wheel

i.e. Horse chestnut, buckeyes

Leaflets are - attached to multiple stems (rachilla)

i.e. silk tree, honey locust, devils walking stick, Kentucky coffee tree





Leaf Types - Conifers



Needle-like

Needles may be arranged in:

- Bundle of 2, 3 or 5 (Pines)
- Single on stem (Fir, Spruce and Hemlock)
- Clusters on stem (Larch, Blue Atlas Cedar)

Scale-like

Scales overlap like scales on a fish

- Cedars
- Juniper

Awl-like

Needles sharp to the touch

Eastern Red Cedar has both scale-like and awl-like foliage



Bud Types





White Ash



Conical shape

Imbricate (overlapping scales)

Rounded

Ovoid "egg shape"



Tree Shapes

Conical - Arborvitae

Columnar – Lombardy Poplar

Pyramidal – Blue Spruce

Fountain - Palm

Oval – Shagbark Hickory

Multi-stem - Birch

Spreading - Cottonwood

Vase-shaped - Elm

Rounded – White Oak

Growth Habit

Excurrent – Single main stem i.e. pine, spruce, pin oak

Decurrent – Spreading habit i.e. cottonwood, white oak, elm



Conifers Photos are organized following Peterson's Field Guide into five categories

- Needles in Clusters
- Needles on Woody PegsFlat Needles
- Scale or Awl-like NeedlesFan-shaped Leaves

- Pines, Larch, [Blue Atlas Cedar, Umbrella Pine]
- Spruces
- Firs, Hemlocks, [Dawn Redwood], Bald Cypress
- Cedars, Junipers

[Gingko]
 Those in [] not in Peterson's, see Smithsonian guide

Conifers Gymnosperms vs Angiosperms

Conifers are Gymnosperms which means "naked seeds". They do not have flowers in the common sense of the word. Instead of producing seeds in an ovary, they produce seeds usually on the scale of a cone.

Broadleaved Trees are Angiosperms meaning "hidden seeds". These are true flowering plants which produce seeds in an ovary.

Conifers with Needles in Clusters - White Pine





- Tall trunk with horizontal spreading limbs
- Delicate spray-like foliage

White Pine

- Five needles per bundle
- Soft needles 2 to 4 inches in length
- Pointed orange buds

White Pine cone

Long (3" - 6") tapering cones without prickles



White Pine

• Dark bark becoming deeply furrowed with age.

- Not scaly like red or Scotch pines
- Prized by British navy for ship masts during Colonial days

Witches Broom White Pine

Dr. Sidney Waxman Collection Bartlett Arboretum – UCONN Prof of Plant Sciences named and introduced 34 cultivars of semi-dwarf conifers

Scotch Pine

- Native of Scottish Highlands
- Bright orange bark on upper trunk and branches

Cones 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " – 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " without prickles



- Two needles per bundle
- Needles 2" 3" in length



Scotch Pine

- Orange flaky bark, not checkered like mature red or Austrian pine
- Most widely distributed pine in the world and most important European timber tree

Crown often irregular or scraggly





Austrian Pine

- Commonly planted in landscapes and along Connecticut highways
- Tolerant of dry soil, dust and city smoke
- Mature bark with distinctive vertical grayyellow plates



Austrian Pine

- Two needles per bundle
- Dark green stiff 3" 6" needles
- Large white resinous buds
- 2" to 3" cone with faint brown border and sharp prickle



Red Pine

- Two needles per bundle
- Needles 4 6 inches in length snap cleanly in half when bent
- Cones 1 ½ 2 ½" without prickle

Red Pine

- Reddish scaly bark when young becoming platy with age
- Tall straight trunk with stout right-angle branches and symmetrical crown



 Used for poles, pilings and log cabins

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Conifers with Clusters of Needles on Spurs

- American Larch short 3 sided needles (3/4 1") shown here
- European Larch longer flat needles of unequal length (1" to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ") and often twisted



European Larch (left)

- Cones 7/8" to 1 1/2" long
- Mostly an upland species

American Larch (right)

- Cones 1⁄2" to 7/8" long
- Tree of northern wet soils
- Indians used roots to sew birch bark into canoes





Gold colored deciduous needles American Larch has upright branchlets, European Larch droop

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Dark bark flaking off in small scales

Blue Atlas Cedar

Clusters of sharp steel blue needles arising from spurs with upright female cones



Blue Atlas Cedar

- Native of the Blue Atlas Mts. of Morocco and Algeria
- Pyramidal when young, spreads to a magnificent open crown

Japanese Umbrella Pine

Unusual and attractive umbrella shaped whorls of 3" – 5" long needles at nodes along branches

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Japanese Umbrella Pine

- Not a true pine but related to the redwoods
- Hardy and slow growing with dense green foliage
- Pyramidal in form





Needles on Woody Pegs - Spruces

• Evergreen tree with pointed buds and sharp, stiff needles attached singly to twigs

• Pendent cones (hang down from the branches)

Norway Spruce

Strongly drooping lateral branches and long cones

White Spruce

- Blue-green needles with short drooping cones
- Needles are square in cross section with skunklike odor





White Spruce (top) short cones 1" - 2" in length

Norway Spruce (bottom) long cones 4" – 6" in length




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Conifers with Flat Needles Balsam Fir

- Round buds
- Needles attached singly to twigs with a round needle scar

Balsam Fir

• Upright purplegreen cones (1"-3")

• Cones fall apart in late autumn leaving upright central core





Balsam Fir

- "Pitch pockets" resin blisters on gray bark
- Conical form, branches ascending



Douglas Fir (not a true fir)

- Pointed buds
- Flat needles on a short petiole (base of needle is constricted)
- Rows of white stoma on bottom of needle



Douglas Fir

- Cones hang down (unlike upright cones of true firs)
- 3-pointed bracts stick out from cone like a snakes tongue







Smooth gray bark on young trees

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What is the Largest Tree?

- Largest Volume Giant Sequoia, General Sherman 28.5' dia, 274' tall
- Tallest Coastal Redwood, Hyperion 379' tall
- Largest Diameter Montezuma Cypress – 52' diameter
- **CT's Largest** Pinchot Sycamore – 9' dia, 95' tall and 146.5' spread in Simsbury
- Oldest
 - Bristlecone Pine Methuselah 4,800 years old





Eastern Hemlock

- Flat round tip needles on slender stalks
- White stoma on bottom of needles
- Small cones $\frac{1}{2}$ " $\frac{3}{4}$ " long
- Cone bracts round in shape

Carolina Hemlock

- Notched tip needles
- Longer cones $(\frac{3}{4}" 1 \frac{3}{8"} \text{ in length})$, bracts oblong in shape
- Sprays of needles more three dimensional than Eastern Hemlock

Eastern Hemlock

- Loose, irregular and feathery crown
- Branch tips hang down
- Dark rough outer bark with red/purple inner bark
- Susceptible to hemlock wooly adelgid





Dawn Redwood

• A living fossil, present for the past 50 million years

 One of the most important arboreal discoveries of the 20th century. Was thought to be extinct until found in China in 1941

• Now widely planted in landscapes over 100' tall in U.S. and over 160' tall in China

- Deciduous tree with opposite pairs of needles and buds
- Ball shaped cones 1" in diameter





shape and soft, lacey appearance



Bald Cypress

- Soft, feathery needles (like Dawn Redwood) but twigs are alternate.
- Native to Southeastern U.S. wetlands but adaptable to both wet and dry sites.

Bald Cypress

• Deciduous conifer with sage green needles changing to orange brown in autumn.

Red-brown fibrous
bark and buttress trunk
(similar to Dawn
Redwood)



Scale or Awl-Like Needles

Northern White-Cedar (Arborvitae)



- Native of northern swamps
- Dark American and Emerald Green are a cross with Oriental Arborvitae planted as an ornamental
- Used for poles, posts and lumber

Northern White Cedar

- Flattened sprays of needles
- Zipper or scale-like foliage (similar to overlapping scales on a fish)
- Leaves and bark high in Vitamin C



Northern White-Cedar

Slender ½" bell-shaped cones, turning brown when mature

Atlantic White-Cedar (Chamaecyparis)

- Similar to Northern White Cedar but bottom of leaves have white stoma
- Leaves tend to be narrower and less flattened than Northern White Cedar
- Small ¼" cones turn blue when mature
- Aromatic foliage when crushed





Atlantic White-Cedar

- Found near coastal swamps
- Decay resistant wood used for shingles and lumber

 Many varieties of this tree and its relatives are planted ornamentally i.e. Hinoki, threadleaf, Sawara, Alaskan weeping



Eastern Red Cedar

Both scale-like and awl-like needles with ¼ " blue berries used to flavor gin and sauerkraut



Conical head becoming wider with age, often without branches near the base



Eastern Red Cedar

- Brown, dry bark shredding in vertical strips
- Most widely distributed conifer in the Eastern
 37 states of U.S.
- Found in old fields, dry sites and along
 Connecticut Highways
- Red, decay resistant heartwood used for furniture and fence posts



Fanshaped leaves

Ginkgo

- Tree of Chinese descent. The most ancient broad-leaved species
- Tree may live over 1,000 years
- Veins form
 "Y" shaped
 pattern in leaf



Ginkgo

- Buds on woody spurs
- Brown corky bark
- Twigs peel in silky fibers





- Upright crown with spreading branches
- Tolerant of urban conditions, beautiful golden fall foliage

Broad-leaved Trees Peterson organizes broad-leaved trees into four groups:

- Opposite Compound Leaves Horsechestnut, Ash, Boxelder and Paperbark Maple
- Opposite Simple Leaves Catalpa, Maples and Dogwood
- Alternate Compound Leaves Locust, Walnut, Ailanthus, Hickories and Silktree
- Alternate Simple Leaves Part II

Opposite Compound Leaves

Horsechestnut

- Large "U" shaped leaf scars
- Bundle traces along edge of leaf scar
- White and pink flowers





Horsechestnut

- Sticky buds, large terminal bud and spiny fruit
- Ohio Buckeye similar but with less spiny fruit



Horsechestnut

Palmately compound leaf - leaflets arranged like the spokes of a wheel



Green Ash Top of leaf scar is straight

White Ash Top of leaf scar is U shaped on white ash

White Ash

Crescent shaped leaf scar and bundle traces form a line





White Ash

- Compound leaf with 5 9 stalked leaflets
- Green ash also has stalked leaflets, black ash does not

Single winged samaras

• White ash (shown below) and green ash are winged ½ way up seed

 Black ash is winged along the entire seed





White Ash

- Round to oval shaped crown
- Diamond shaped bark with interwoven pattern of shallow ridges and furrows, soft and corky texture
- Emerald Ash Borer in CT
- Wood splits easily. "Splints" woven into baskets and chair bottoms



Box Elder

- Purplish-white twigs with bloom that rubs off
- Opposite compound leaf with 3 to 5 leaflets
- Crescent-shaped leaf scars with 3 bundle scars



Paperbark Maple

- Slow growing ornamental maple maturing to 25-35 feet in height.
- Native to China, with distinctive cinnamon-brown peeling bark
- Trifoliate (3-leaflets) compound leaves which turn red in fall.





Opposite Simple Leaves -Catalpa

- Large heart shaped leaves and cigar shaped seed pods
- Round leaf scar and bundle scars

- Buds may be opposite or whorled
- Clusters of white flowers with yellow and purple spots at end of twigs

Maples

Sugar Maple

Pointed buds and brown twigs Crescent shaped leaf scar with 3 bundle scars

Red Maple

Round buds (often clustered) and red twigs

Norway Maple – Red and green "keeled" buds



Maple Bark



Red MapleSilver MapleYoung - smooth, grayYoung - smooth, grayMature - Broken, darkMature - Vertical stripsCircular "bullseye"Silver Maple



Norway Maple Gray/brown with shallow groves, ash-like in appearance



Sugar Maple Gray/brown with vertical grooves and loose edge plates
Maple Samaras



Sugar Maple – "U" shaped



Red Maple – "V" shaped



Silver Maple - "V" Shaped



Norway Maple - Straight



Crimson King Maple

- Relatively fast growing Norway maple, tolerant of urban conditions and often planted as an ornamental.
- Weak branch crotches make Norways susceptible to storm damage
- "Plant the Right Tree in the Right Place"

Japanese Maple

- Green twigs and buds
- Contorted branches
- Smooth gray bark with dark streaks



Japanese Maple

- Threadleaf (left) lacey, threadlike leaves
- Palmatum (right) cannabis like leaves
- Red twigs with opposite buds



Striped Maple

Three lobed leaf in the shape of a goose's footprint





- Stalked, valvate buds
- Green/red bark with white stripes

Maple Leaves

Norway Maple: 5-7 lobes, shallow "U" sinuses, milky sap at base of petiole

> Sugar Maple: 5-7 lobes, shallow "U" sinuses, center lobe often longer

Red Maple: 3 large lobes with "V" sinuses

Japanese Maple: 5-9 narrow pointed lobes, deep "V" sinuses

Silver Maple: Deep "U" sinuses, back of leaf white

Flowering Dogwood

- Showy white or pink flowers with 4 bracts
- Blooms prior to leafout, onion shaped flower buds





Pink Flowering Dogwood

- Grafted onto White Flowering Dogwood rootstock
- Dogwoods prefer understory of surrounding trees
- Blocky checkerboard shaped bark pattern



Flowering Dogwood

Clusters of 1/2" egg-shaped fruit turning red when mature

Kousa Dogwood

- 4 bract flower, blooms after leafout
- "Crunchberry" like fruit, pointed opposite buds, exfoliating bark
- Constellation and Century cross of Kousa and Native Flowering dogwood



Broad-leaved Trees

Alternate Compound Leaves Locust
Walnut
Ailanthus
Mountain Ash
Hickories
Silktree

Alternate Compound Leaves

Honey Locust

- Trunk and branches with many stout thorns, several inches long
- Bark dark and somewhat scaly



Thornless Honeylocust

i.e. Shademaster and Sunburst

- Pinnate or bipinnately compound leaves
- Bean pods 6" 16"







Black Locust

- Small pairs of thorns
- Deeply ridged bark with cross-hatching
- Dense and durable wood though brittle



Black Locust

- Clusters of white flowers
- Pinnately compound leaves



Black Locust (left) short bean pods (2" - 6")

Honey Locust (right) long bean pods (6" – 16")



Butternut

- Yellow/brown twig
- Elongated terminal bud
- "U" shaped bundle traces
- Superposed
 bud above
 lateral bud
- Velvet eyebrow above leaf scar



Black Walnut

- Dull gray twig
- Blunt terminal bud
- "U" shape bundle traces

•Superposed bud above lateral bud

Black Walnut (shown here) and Butternut

Chambered pith:

Tan colored in black walnut, chocolate brown in butternut

Black Walnut

- Monoecious trees have both male and female reproductive organs on the same tree i.e. oak, pine and cherry
- Dioecious trees have reproductive organs on separate trees i.e. ash, holly, aspen and ginkgo





Black Walnut (left)

Compound leaf, end leaflet often lacking with round 2" delicious nuts

Butternut (right) with oblong nuts



Black Walnut

- Dark, deeply grooved bark
- One of the most valuable and beautiful grained woods

Butternut

Wide bark ridges are smooth topped making a shiny interlaced network



Ailanthus

- Weak wooded weed tree
- Invasive and will grow in extremely adverse conditions.
- Clusters of small yellow and red blossoms with foul odor
- Fast growing (8' 12' per year from stump sprouts)



Ailanthus

- Thick twig with brown spongy pith
- Brown wooly buds
- Large leaf scar with many bundle scars
- False end bud (end bud is shed and a lateral bud acts as the end bud



Occasionally growing into large mature street trees

 Smooth gray bark with light colored grooves

 Clusters of dry winged, single-seeded fruit



Staghorn Sumac

- Thick woolly twig with brown spongy pith
- Clusters of red berries
- Smooth sumac has hairless twigs
- Dwarf sumac has wings along the rachis

Silktree (Mimosa)

- Feather-like bipinnately compound leaves
- Powderbrush-like pink flowers
- Long slender beanlike pods

Silktree

- Light brown smooth bark
- Native to Asia but widely planted and naturalized in eastern U.S.



Shagbark Hickory

- Very shaggy bark with long thin strips
- Oblong crown
- Hickories have very strong, heavy and elastic wood

- Large end bud (>1/2") with loose overlapping scales
- May be slightly hairy
- Red-brown twig with light colored lenticels



- Large end buds, outer scales drop in fall
- Woolly twigs and foliage
- Red-brown twig with light colored lenticels



Mockernut Hickory

Shagbark Hickory

- Hickories have pinnately compound leaves with stalks only on the terminal leaflet
- Shagbark hickory usually has 5 (sometimes 7), hairless leaflets



Shagbark Hickory

- Thick husk with 4 ribs
- Edible white nut
- Egg shaped nut, rounded at base



Mockernut Hickory

- Usually 7 (sometimes 9), leaflets per leaf
- Pubescent underside of leaf
- Mature bark mostly tight netted with smooth ridges and shallow furrows



Pignut Hickory

- Small (less than ½") egg shaped buds
- Outer bud scales drop in autumn
- Smooth red-brown twigs

• 5 to 7 hairless leaflets per leaf • Tight and smooth ridged bark

Pignut Hickory

- Brown nut
- Thin husk nut, not winged
- Husk splits into 4, usually not to the base

Mockernut Hickory

Thick husk

4 angled tan/brown nut

Bitternut Hickory

- Bright mustard yellow paired buds (valvate)
- Twigs mostly hairless





Pignut Hickory

- Compound leaf with 5 to 11 leaflets
- Bitter nuts with thin husks and winged at 4 seams



	WOODY PLANTS OF EASTERN NORTH AMERIC.	A 43
	Key to the Common Hickories	4
	 Bud scales paired, valvate; buds often appearing naked 2 Bud scales imbricate, usually more than 2 visible 3 	
	 Buds bright yellow. Bitternut Hickory Carya cordiformis (Wangenh.) K. Koch.1 Buds brownish. Pecan Hickory Carya illinoensis (Wang.) K. Koch. 2 	3
	 Terminal buds short and stout; somewhat globose, usually glabrous. Pignut Hickory Carya glabra (Mill.) Sweet; and Red Hickory Carya ovalis (Wang.) Sarg. 3 The 1953 "Checklist" considers C. ovalis 	
	 a synonym for C. glabra. 3. Terminal buds larger, more ellipsoidal, more or less hairy 4 	3
	 Outer scales soon dcciduous, showing the lighter colored ones beneath; twigs often hairy, and quite fragrant when bruised. Mockernut Hickory Carya to- 	2
	 <i>mentosa</i> Nutt. 4 4. Outer scales persistent, twigs less hairy, or glabrous5 	
	 Twigs orange-brown, or buff colored, len- ticels orange colored. Shellbark Hickory <i>Carya laciniosa</i> (Michx. f.) Loud. Twigs dark reddish brown. Shagbark Hickory <i>Carya oyata</i> (Mill.) K. Koch. 5 	1
Die for	chotomous key "continuously rks in 2"	2
