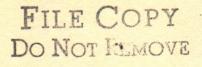
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Familiar Trees of Michigan Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service Natural Resources Series James Neal, District Extension Leader, Resources Development March 1972 28 pages

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# Familiar Trees of Michigan

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Extension Bulletin E-616 Natural Resources Series Reprinted March 1972

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Cover: White, Pine State Tree of Michigan

#### TREE

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By James Neal, Michigan State University District Extension Leader, Resource Development, November 1970

Issued in furtherance of cooperative extension work in agriculture and home economics, acts of May 8, and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture. George S. McIntyre, Director, Cooperative Extension Service, Michigan State University, E. Lansing, Mich.

Michigan the "Water Winter Wonderland" state is also well known for its vast forest cover. More than 54% of all the land in Michigan is covered with some kind of forest growth. In northern Michigan and in the Upper Peninsula from 70 to 90 per cent of each of the counties is in forests. Michigan has 19 million acres of forests. These produce annually 750 million dollars, consumer value, of timber products. In addition, forests provide protection for our land, water, and habitat for our wildlife. Forests also provide an environment for man to work, play, and study.

This booklet has been prepared to aid 4-H Club members, teachers, school groups, and others to identify and to know more about some of the more common trees of Michigan. Sixty-four trees are illustrated in this booklet with a key to help assist with the identification of some of these trees.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

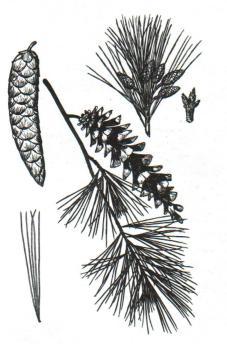
Michigan State University would like to thank William Carey Grimm, noted botanist and science teacher for permission to use his outstanding drawings included in this bulletin. Appreciation is also extended to the Stackpole Company, Harrisburg, Pa., publishers of **The Book Of Trees** written and illustrated by Mr. Grimm. Without the permission of the author and the publisher this manual would not have been attempted.

There are many books available to anyone interested in further information about trees. Some of them are listed below:

- Manual of the Trees of North America, Charles Sprague Sargent Smith, Peter Publishing Co., New York, New York, 1952.
- Michigan Trees, Charles Herbert Otis University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1931.
- Michigan Trees Worth-Knowing, Norman F. Smith Michigan Department of Conservation, Lansing, Michigan, 1961.
- Textbook of Dendrology, William M. Harlow and Ellwood S. Harrar, McGraw-Hill Book Company, New York, New York, 1958.
- The Book of Trees, William C. Grimm Stackpole Company, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, 1965.

Trees, Herbert S. Zim and Alexander C. Martin Simon and Schuster Publishing Company, New York 20, New York, 1952. WHITE PINE

(Pinus strobus)



RED PINE (Pinus resinosa)

White Pine – Soft flexible bluish green needles, five in a bundle with a 4 to 8 inch cone slightly curved. Once called the "Monarch of the North". State tree of Michigan.

**Red Pine** – Also called Norway pine. Needles dark green in color, two to a bundle and 4 to 6 inches long. The cones are 2 inches long. Needles break clean when bent.

**JACK PINE** 

(Pinus banksiana)

**SCOTCH PINE** 

(Pinus sylvestris)





Jack Pine – Tree of light sandy soils, forming pure stands on burned over forest lands in the north. Cones may remain closed for years, usually heat will open cones to release seed.

Scotch Pine – Bluish-green, slightly twisted needles. Cones 1½ to 2½ inches long, pointing backward along branches. Favorite for Christmas trees. Imported from Europe so usually planted.

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#### AUSTRIAN PINE

**BLACK SPRUCE** 

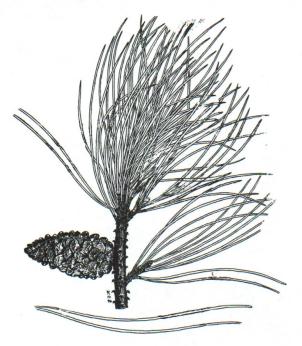
(Pinus nigra)

(Picea mariana)

- 3 -

NORWAY SPRUCE

(Picea abies)

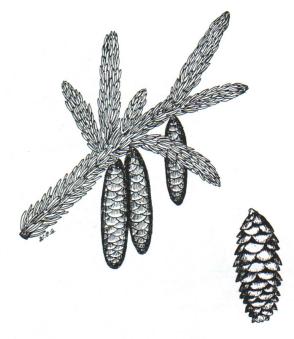


Austrian Pine – Similar to Red Pine. Dark dull green needles, 3 to 5 inches long. Cones are stalkless and 2 to 3 inches long. Frequently planted as an ornamental tree. A native of Europe.



Norway Spruce – Imported tree planted as an ornamental. Large cylindrical cones 4 to 7 inches long. Branchlets hang from lateral limbs on older trees like weeping willow. Widely planted in the U.S.





**Black Spruce** – Truly a northern tree, extending to limits of tree growth. Needles blunt-pointed and 1/4 to 3/8 of an inch long. Cones 3/4 to 1 inch long. Often cut for Christmas trees. White Spruce – Frequently used for Christmas trees and pulpwood. Bluish-green needle, 1/2 to 3/4 inches long. Cones are 1-1/2 to 2 inches long with thin, rounded, smooth-margined scales.

WHITE SPRUCE

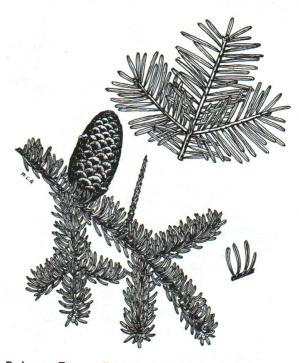
(Picea glauca)

BALSAM FIR

(Abies balsamea)



**Eastern Hemlock** – Leaves 1/2 inch long with a stalk which remains on the twig when leaf falls. Slightly notched leaf tips. Hemlock bark is rich in tannic acid, and used to be in demand for tanning hides.

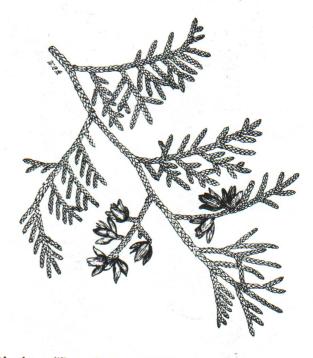


**Balsam Fir** – Favorite Christmas tree because of fragrant odor. Branches form "cross", symbol of Christmas and Easter. Flat leaf 3/4 inch long with two prominent whitish lines on the lower surface. Difficult to grow in plantations.

NORTHERN WHITE CEDAR

(Thuja occidentalis)





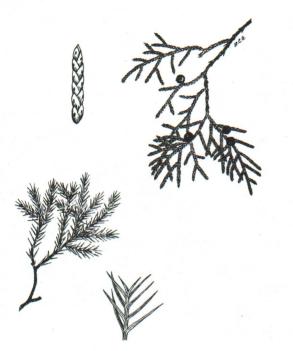
**Tamarack** – Sheds leaves in fall. Leaf is 1/2 to 3/4 inches long, very narrow, soft and flexible. Leaf is pale-green in color turning yellow in fall. Used for poles and pulpwood. Wood is heavy, hard and strong.

Northern White Cedar – Widely used for fence posts, shingles and poles. Leaves are 1/8 to 1/4 inch long and overlapping. Preferred food and cover for whitetailed deer.

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#### TREMBLING ASPEN

### (Populus tremuloides)

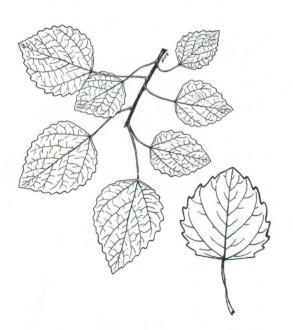


EASTERN RED CEDAR

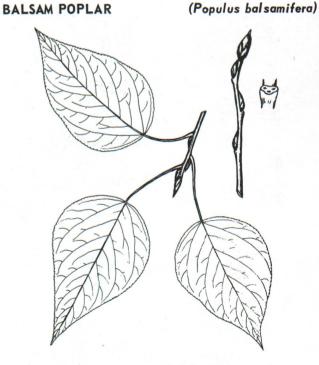
**Eastern Red Cedar** – Really a Juniper not a cedar. Used for cedar chests because of odor and color. Cones are dark blue and berry-like and have a sweet resinous taste. Good bird food.

**Trembling Aspen** – Commonly called "popple" or "poplar". Leaves are round and "quake" in the slightest breeze. Tree enjoyed by deer and beaver. Excellent pulpwood tree.

LARGE-TOOTHED ASPEN (Populus grandidentata)



Large-Toothed Aspen – Similar to trembling Aspen only leaf has large course margin. Leaf stem also flat which causes quaking in a breeze. Tree bark is more yellowish in color than trembling Aspen. Best of the aspens for lumber and pulpwood.



**Balsam Poplar** — Balm of Gilead, tacamahac, are other common names of balsam poplar. Leaf is 3 to 6 inches long. Buds are brown and very resinous and fragrant.

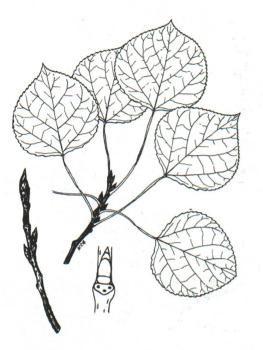
- 5 -

(Juniperus virginiana)

#### EASTERN COTTONWOOD

#### BLACK WILLOW

(Salex nigra)



**Eastern Cottonwood** – Leaf heart to triangle shaped, 3 to 5 inches long. Planted as a street and shade tree. Tree grows fast and limited in use. Used for boxes, excelsior, crates, and baskets.

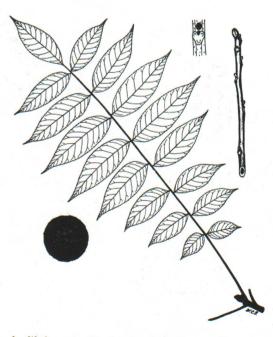


Black Willow – Grows along banks of streams and bottomlands close to water. Leaves lance shaped and 3 to 6 inches long. 1/4 to 5/8 inch wide. Small amounts of this wood are used for artificial limbs.

BLACK WALNUT

(Juglans nigra)





**Butternut** – Also known as white walnut. Leaves are 15 to 30 inches long, with 11 to 17 in. leaflets. Fruit is an oblong 2 – 2-1/2 inch nut. Tolerates more northernly climate than black walnut. Wood of very little value. Twigs have a chocolate colored chambered pith.

**Black Walnut** – Queen of American cabinet woods. Also used for gun stocks. Nuts are good for cakes and cookies. Leaves are 12 to 24 inches long. Twigs have a pale brown chambered center.

#### **BITTERNUT HICKORY**

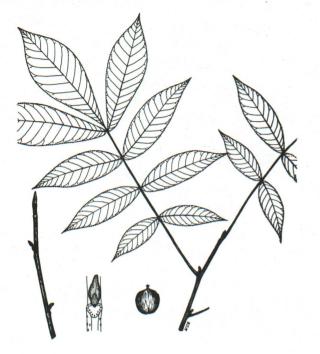
#### (Carya cordiformis)

#### SHAGBARK HICKORY

**GRAY BIRCH** 

#### (Carya ovata)

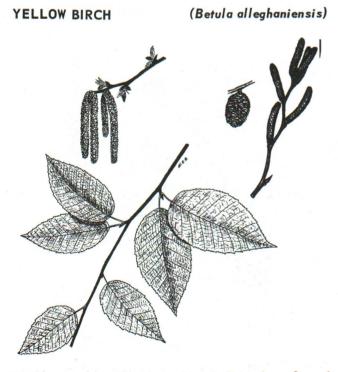
(Betula populifolia)



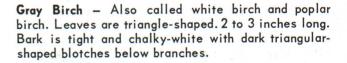
**Bitternut Hickory** – At all seasons bitternut hickory can be identified by bright, yellow, granular buds. Leaves 6 to 10 inches long with 7 to 11 leaflets. Fruit too bitter to eat.



Shagbark Hickory – Stout twigs and gray bark which hangs loosely helps to identify this tree. Leaves 8 to 14 inches long with usually 5 leaflets. The nuts are edible. The wood makes good tool handles.



Yellow Birch – Most valuable of all birches. One of the principal members of the climax beech-birchmaple forest association. Identified by amber-yellow to silvery-yellowish-gray bark which peels off in thin film-like curls. Widely used for fancy veneer.



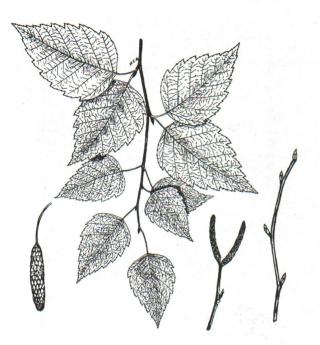
- 7 -

#### PAPER BIRCH

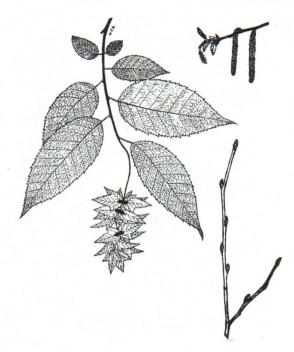
#### (Betula papyrifera)

#### EASTERN HOPHORNBEAM

#### (Ostrya virginiana)



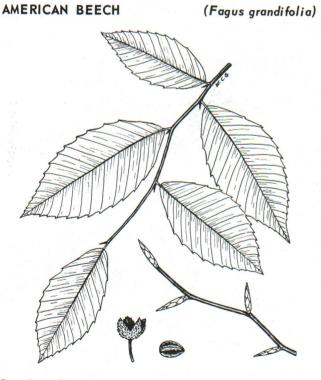
**Paper Birch** – Known as canoe birch and white birch. Creamy-white bark which peels off in thin papery layers exposing orange-colored inner bark. Wood used for toothpicks and spools.



**Eastern Hophornbeam** – Small tree distinguished by shreddy-appearing bark with shaggy plates which curve away from the trunk. Leaves similar to yellow birch. Wood is hard and tough, hence the common name "Ironwood." Used as an ornamental.

NORTHERN RED OAK

(Quercus rubra)



**Beech** – The "initial" tree because of the smooth gray bark which is easy to carve upon. Leaves turn a bronzed-brown color in the fall. Beechnuts are enjoyed by white tailed deer and grouse.

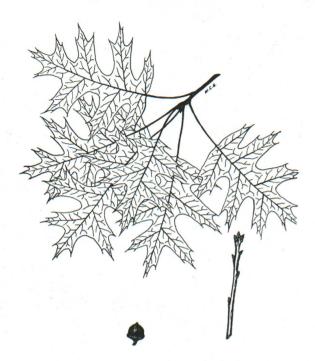


Northern Red Oak – Valuable shade tree along streets and about home grounds. Becomes a large tree 70 to 90 feet in height and 2 to 4 feet in diameter. Also valuable for furniture, cooperage and interior work.

- 8 -

(Quercus palustris)

- 9 -



**Pin Oak** – Takes its name from the short, stiff, pinlike shoots with which its branches are studded. Attractive form, so used for ornamental purposes. Selected for shade tree use on highly acid soils.



**Black Oak** — Nearly black trunk with characteristic bright yellow inner bark. Uses are similar to red oak. Grows on dry or rocky slopes and ridges.



**Bur Oak** – Corky ridges on branchlets. Large acorns 1 to 2 inches with short stalks and having fringed margins. Also called overcup oak. Leaf almost divided in half by deep sinus.



(Quercus alba)



White Oak – One of the largest and most valuable trees growing in Michigan. Whiskey barrels, flooring and furniture are some uses. Leaves are 5 to 9 inches long with a smooth leaf margin.

(Quercus bicolor)

AMERICAN ELM

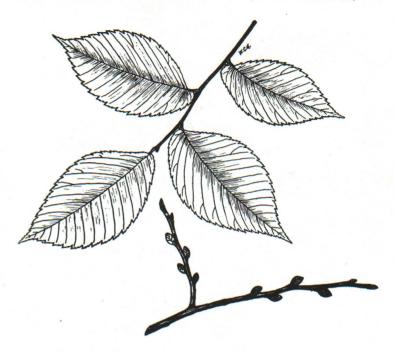
SLIPPERY ELM

(Ulmus americana)

(Ulmus rubra)



Swamp White Oak – Dark brownish bark of the branches peels off and exposes light colored inner bark. Similar to white oak but wood is more knotty.



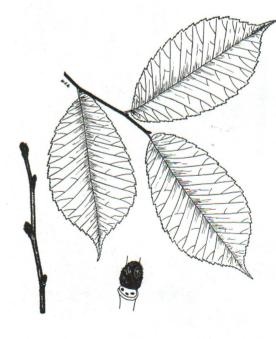
American Elm – The "umbrella shaped" tree common along Michigan roadways. The Dutch elm disease is threatening to eliminate this tree particularly in lower Michigan. Leaves oval shaped, and two sides are unequal.

ROCK ELM

(Ulmus thomasii)



Rock Elm – Also called cork elm because of 1 to 4 parallel but discontinuous wings on branches. Leaves  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches long, pointed with unequal sides and smooth surface.



**Slippery Elm** - Leaves 4 to 7 inches long, oval shaped. Leaf surface very rough to touch. Inner bark "slippery."

#### HACKBERRY

#### (Celtis occidentalis)

#### RED MULBERRY

**TULIP - TREE** 

(Morus rubra)

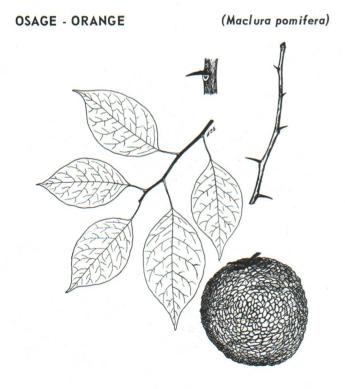
(Liriodendron tulipifera)



**Hackberry** – Leaves alternate, 2 to 4 inches long. Also called sugarberry. Fruits are pea shaped, dark purplish in color with a sweet taste similar to dates.



**Red Mulberry** – Small tree seldom over 30 feet tall. The edible black fruit is enjoyed by robins, wood thrush, catbirds and cedar wax wings.





**Osage Orange** — Planted for hedge rows. Fruit resembles pale green oranges, 3 to 5 inches in diameter. Orange colored wood sometimes used for making archery bows.

**Tulip Tree** – Also called tulip poplar. Flowers resemble tulips so the name – tulip tree. Fine wood used for furniture, musical instruments, etc. Bees make excellent honey from the flower of this tree.

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#### SASSAFRAS

#### (Sassafras albidum)

SYCAMORE

#### (Platanus occidentalis)



Sassafras — Noted for sassafras tea which is brewed from bark of roots. Three shaped leaves, unlobed, 3-lobed and 2-lobed or mitten shaped.

#### AMERICAN MOUNTAIN-ASH

(Sorbus americana)



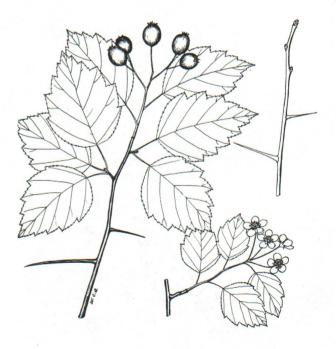
American Mountain Ash – Brilliant orange-red colored berries in clusters most characteristic of this tree. The fruit is enjoyed by many birds. An ornamental tree.



**Sycamore** — Mottled bark and scaly. Large leaf resembling a maple. Fruit, ball-shaped 1 inch in diameter on a slender stalk.

VARIABLE THORN

(Crataegus macrasperma)



**Variable Thorn** – A shrub or small tree with white flowers in May. Branches thorny, pale brown with scaly bark.

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WILD BLACK CHERRY

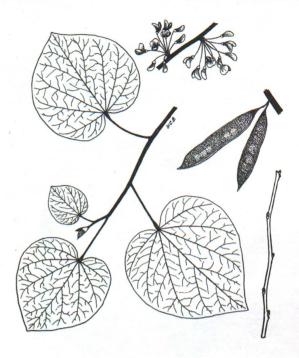
(Prunus serotina)

REDBUD

(Cercis canadensis)



**Wild Black Cherry** – Valuable tree used for furniture, solidly or as a veneer. Fruits are purplish black and enjoyed by man and animal alike.



**Redbud** – Also called Judas tree. Tree is 15 to 30 feet in height. An ornamental tree which has a pretty lavender-rose pea-like blossoms near Easter time before leaves come out. Leaves are heart shaped.

HONEY LOCUST

(Gleditsia triacanthos)



Kentucky Coffee Tree – Leaves are alternate and twice compounded. The fruit is a broad thick, flattened, reddish-brown pod, 4 to 10 inches long.



**Honey Locust** – Usually trunk and large branches have thick stout branched spines. Thornless variety planted for ornamental use. Fruit, like Kentucky coffee tree, is a 10 to 18 inch flat pod.

#### STAGHORN SUMAC

(Rhus typhina)

- 14 -

STRIPED MAPLE

(Acer pensylvanicum)



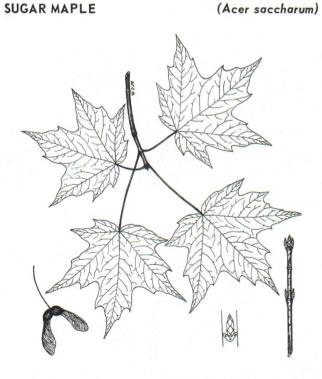
**Staghorn Sumac** — Stout, dense, velvety, twigs, makes this small tree resemble antlers of the male deer in velvet. Sumac seldom grows over 20 feet in height. Wood of no commercial value.



**Striped Maple** – Green to reddish brown bark with conspicuous whitish lines or streaks. Also called moosewood or goosefoot maple. Leaves are 5 to 6 inches long and nearly as broad.

BLACK MAPLE

(Acer nigrum)



**Sugar Maple** – The "maple syrup" tree. Also used in furniture, flooring, novelties, and spools and bobbins. Abnormalties may cause "curly maple" or birdseye maple grain which is valuable for cabinets.



**Black Maple** – Resembles sugar maple but bark is darker with leaves that droop and 3-lobed. Sugar maple and black maple lumber are both marketed as "hard maple."

#### BOX-ELDER

(Acer negundo)

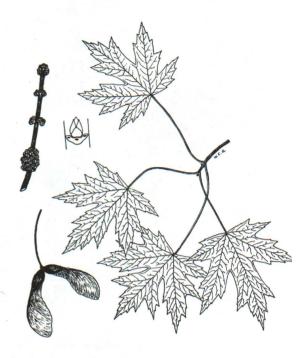
SILVER MAPLE

- 15 -

#### (Acer saccharinum)



**Boxelder** – A unique maple because leaves are pinnately compound with 3 to 5 leaflets. Twigs are stout and purplish in color with a white bloom which is easily rubbed off,



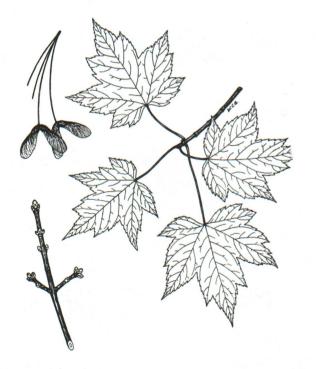
Silver Maple – Extensively planted as an ornamental tree along streets. Leaf is silver on top side with white underneath, deeply 5-lobed. Fruits or samara are largest of maple  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches long.

RED MAPLE

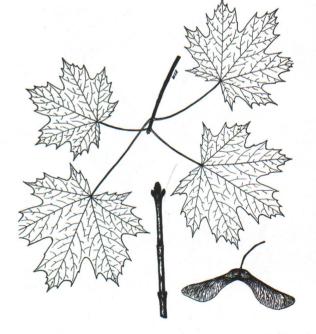
(Acer rubum)

NORWAY MAPLE

(Acer platanoides)



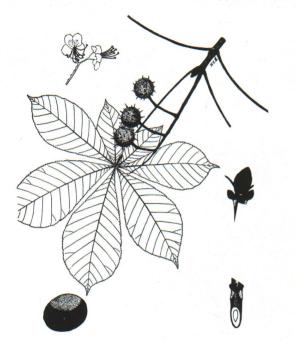
**Red Maple** – Twigs are slender, and bright red in winter. Often called soft maple. Characteristically leaves are a brilliant red in fall.



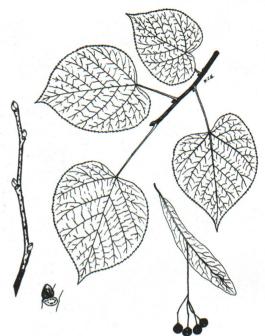
Norway Maple – A native of Europe. Planted in U.S. for shade tree use. Well adapted to city smoke and dusts. Holds leaves well into fall.

HORSE CHESTNUT

(Aesculus hippocastanum)



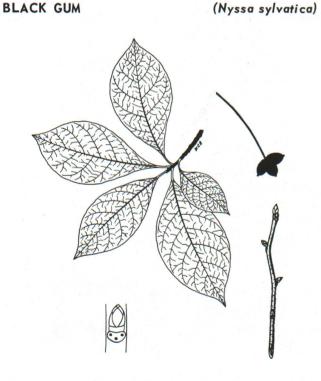
Horse Chestnut – "Buckeye" to many people. Planted as a shade tree. Fruit is a smooth lustrous brown nut. Leaflets are 4 to 6 inches long. Some superstitious people carry the nuts in their pockets to prevent rheumatism. Nuts are not edible.



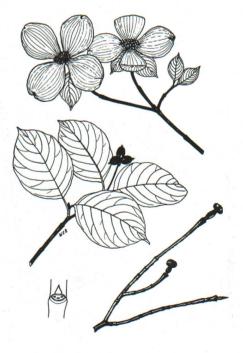
American basswood — "American linden" is the common name. Sprouts freely. Leaves are heart shaped and are 4 to 6 inches long. Makes excellent honey.

FLOWERING DOGWOOD

(Cornus florida)



**Black Gum** – Also called black tupelo. Leaves are thick, 2 to 5 inches long with wedge-shaped bases. Leaves tend to cluster in fives.



**Flowering Dogwood** – A flowering tree seldom reaching any commercial size. Extensively planted as ornamental. Flowers shaped like a cross and blooms at Easter time.

AMERICAN BASSWOOD

(Tilia americana)

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#### WHITE ASH

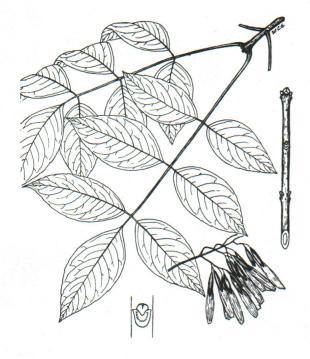
(Fraxinus americana)

**BLACK ASH** 

WHITE POPLAR

- 17 -

#### (Fraxinus nigra)



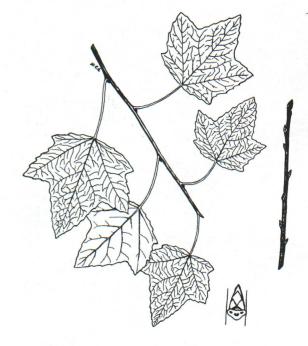
White Ash – Baseball bats, handles, snowshoes, and skis are common products made from this wood. A compound leaf with 5 to 9 leaflets (usually 7).



**Black Ash** – Leaves are 10 to 16 inches long with 7 to 11 (usually 9) leaflets. Occupies wet, low areas. Used for basket making, barrel hoops, etc.

#### NORTHERN CATALPA

#### (Catalpa speciosa)



Northern Catalpa – Large 4 to 8 inch leaf, 3 to 5 inches wide. Fruits are 8 to 15 inches long, banana shaped, but less than ½ inch in diameter. Sometimes used for fence posts.

White Poplar – Leaves are dark-green above, and silvery white beneath. Leaf under-surface is white and wooly. Also called silver leaf poplar. Often seen around old residences in the country.

(Populus alba)

# **KEY TO FAMILIAR TREES OF MICHIGAN**

١.	Tree A	es with needle-like or scale-like leaves; fruit a cone, or cone-like (conifers). Leaves needle-like.	
		1. Leaves in bundles or on clusters.	
		a) Leaves in bundles	
		<ul> <li>(1) Leaves or needles in 5's</li></ul>	White Pine
		(a) Leaves 4 to 6 inches long	Red Pine
		(b) Leaves 1 to 2 inches long	Jack Pine
		b) Leaves in clusters, soft and flexible, shed in fall	Tamarack
		2. Leaves not in bundles	Iamarack
		a) Leaves flattened.	
			Hemlock
		<ul><li>(2) Leaves ¾ inch long, cones 2 to 3 inches and erect</li><li>b) Leaves four sided.</li></ul>	Balsam Fir
		(1) Branchlets smooth, needles ill-scented, 1 to 2 inch cones	
		(2) Branchlets hairy, short needles pleasantly scented, $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch cones	Black Spruce
	В.	Leaves scale-like	
		1. Branchlets flattened in fan-like sprays, fruit reddish brown	Northern White Cedar
		<ol><li>Branchlets 4 angled, not in fan-like sprays, fruit berry-like</li></ol>	
		and dark blue	Red Cedar
п.	Tree	es with broad, flat leaves of many shapes and patterns (broad leaf trees).	
	A.	Leaves compound.	
		1. Opposite.	
		a) Palmately compound; seven leaflets	Horse Chestnut
		b) Pinnately compound.	Horse offestitut
		(1) Leaf margins entire or finely toothed, leaflets distinctly	
		petioled; fruit a single samara	Ashas
		(2) Leaf margins coarsely toothed or lobed, leaflets somewhat	Ashes
		petioled or sessile; fruit a double samara.	
		2. Alternate.	Box-elder
		a) Leaflets small, less than 2 inches long; fruit a pod, branches with	
		thorns.	Honey Locust
		b) Leaflets large, more than 2 inches long.	
		(1) Fruit, a pod, 4 to 10 inches long, reddish brown	Kentucky Coffee Tree
		(2) Fruit a drupe, 3/16 inches on an erect conical cluster	Staghorn Sumac
		(3) Fruit a nut; twig pith chambered.	
		(a) Pith, buff colored	Black Walnut
		(b) Pith, chocolate colored	Butternut
		(4) Fruit a nut; twig-pith homogeneous.	True Hickories
	Β.	Leaves simple.	
		1. Opposite.	
		a) Leaves lobed (star-like); fruit a samara	Maples
		b) Leaves not lobed	
		(1) Large, heart-shaped; fruit a cylindrical pod 6 to 14 inches long	Catalpa
		(2) Small to medium, ovate; fruit a red berry, borne in clusters	Derwood
		2. Alternate.	Dogwood
		a) Leaves lobed or notched	
		(1) Leaves as wide as they are long.	
		(a) Twigs and leaves aromatic, leaves of three forms; entire,	
		mitten-shaped and 3-lobed	0
			Sassafras

		(b)	Twig i)	s and leaves not aromatic, leaves of one form Leaf margin entire, four lobed; flower tulip-shaped	Yellow Poplar
			ii)	Leaf margins not entire	renow ropiai
			,	[a] Leaf margin finely to coarsely toothed,	Cottonwood, Aspen,
				petioles laterally flattened	Poplars
				[b] Leaf mitten shaped, twigs zig-zag; fruit edible	Mulberry
				[c] Leaf one form, pointed lobes, hollow petiole at	
				base; old bark peels in thin curled pieces	Sycamore
	(2)			ger than wide.	
		(a)	Leav	es medium to large, fruit an acorn	
			i)	Leaves bristle tipped, inside of acorn shell hairy;	
				kernel bitter	Red or Black Oaks
			ii)	Leaves rounded; inside of acorn shell smooth;	
				kernel sweet	White Oaks
b)	Leav	es not	lobe	d or notched.	
	(1)	Leav	es wit	h unequal bases, one-sided as to midrib position	
		(a)	Marg	jins doubly serrated	Elms
		(b)	Marg	in not doubly serrated	
			i)	Leaf heart-shaped; fruit a small woody nut subtended	
				by a leaf-like blade	Basswood
			ii)	Leaf ovate; fruit a small dark red drupe, corky bark	Hackberry
	(2)	Leav	es wit	h equal-base (not one-sided)	
		(a)	Leaf	margin entire	
			i)	Leaf heart-shaped; fruit a legume	Redbud
		(b)	Leaf	margin not entire.	
			i)	Spiny, toothed or bristle-like at the end of each vein; fruit a nut.	
				<ul><li>[a] Bark smooth, blue gray; terminal bud long, pointed;</li></ul>	
				fruit a small triangular nut	Beech
			ii)	Margin finely or doubly serrated	
				[a] Margin finely serrated	
				(i) Fruit fleshy, leaves finely toothed, fruit a	
				one-seeded drupe	Cherry
				(ii) Fruit not fleshy, leaf petiole short, leaves lance-	
				shaped with long tapered tips	Willow
				[b] Margin doubly serrated	
				(i) Bark white and peeling	White Birch
				(ii) Bark white and tight to tree	Gray Birch
				(iii) Bark yellow and peeling, wintergreen taste	Yellow Birch





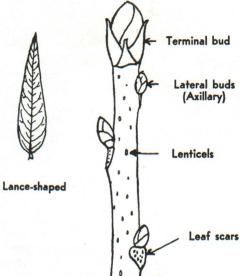
Oval



Oblong









Obovate

Heart-shaped

SHAPES OF LEAVES

TWIG WITH A TERMINAL BUD (Hickory)

Pith

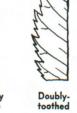
Entire

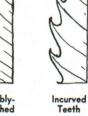




Ovate











#### TYPES LEAF MARGINS **OF**



BEECH Narrowly conical)



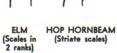


ASPEN centered directly

10

:::

CHESTNUT (Ovoid)



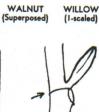


SCRUB OAK . (Accessory)

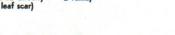


WHITE ASH (Rounded)

R.

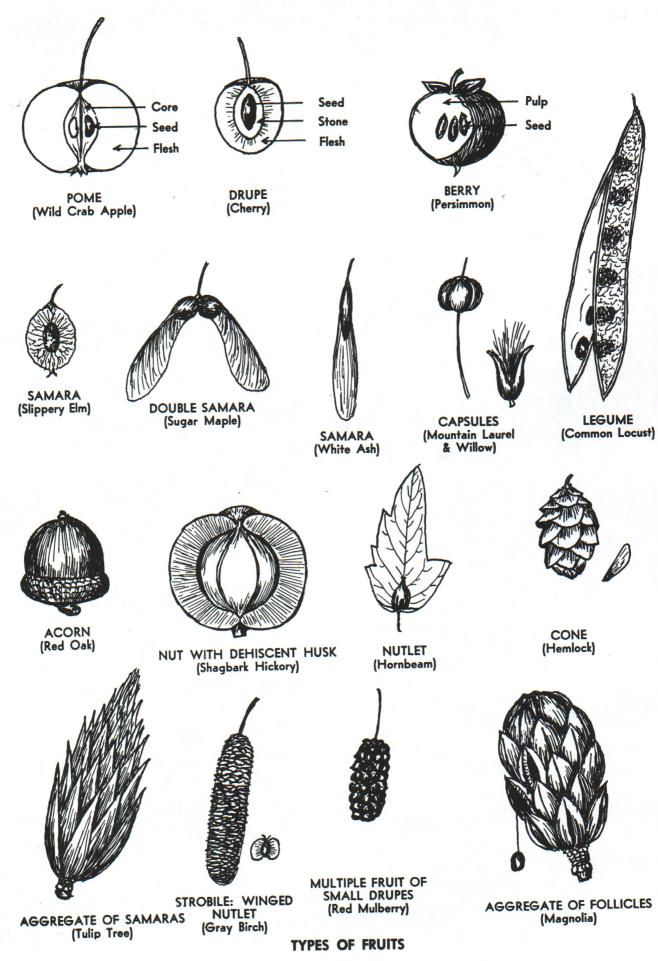


TULIP TREE (Showing stipule scar encircling twig)

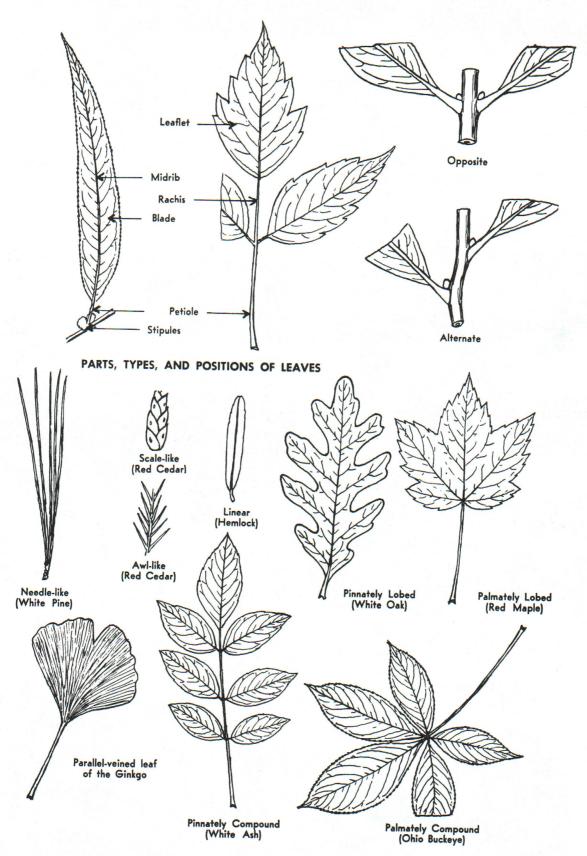


CHESTNUT OAK (Conical)

TYPES OF BUDS



- 21 -



- 22 -



