

Tree ID Key for the 1000 Islands Area

by Oliver K. Reichl, HBES

1a. Deciduous ... **Go to 8** (page 2)

1b. Coniferous ... **Go to 2**

~ CONIFEROUS SPECIES ~

2a. Needles in bundles [PINE, LARCH] ... **Go to 3**

2b. Needles single (not in bundles) [SPRUCE, HEMLOCK, FIR] ... **Go to 5**

2c. Needles scale-like [CEDAR] ... **Go to 7**

3a. Bundle has five needles; cones elongate and sappy — *Eastern white pine*

3b. Bundle has three needles; cones round or oval — *Pitch pine*

3c. Bundle has two needles ... **Go to 4**

3d. Bundles of 10 or more needles on last years' stems; cones — *Tamarack/Larch*

4a. Needles long and soft, bark reddish or burgundy — *Red pine*

4b. Needles long and hard, bark not reddish or burgundy — *Austrian pine*

4c. Needles short and twisting, bark orange — *Scot's pine*

4d. Needles short and spreading, bark not orange; cones gray and mostly closed — *Jack pine*

4e. Needles short; size is shrubby, low, and multi-stemmed — *Mugo pine*

5a. Needles squarish [SPRUCE] ... **Go to 6**

5b. Needles flat and short (1cm), cones small and oval — *Eastern hemlock*

5c. Needles flat and longer (1-2+ cm), bark smooth with blisters — *Balsam fir*

6a. Cones short (2-3cm), bark with gray "cornflakes" — *White spruce*

6b. Cones long (10+ cm), with pendant stems on older limbs — *Norway spruce*

6c. Cones medium (5-7 cm), pale tan coloured with frayed scales — *Colorado spruce*

7a. Scales and overall growth form rounded; fruit is a cone — *Eastern white cedar*

7b. Scales and overall growth form pointy; fruit is a berry — *Eastern red cedar*

~ DECIDUOUS SPECIES ~

- 8a. Branching arrangement opposite, without thorns ... **Go to 9**
8b. Branching arrangement alternate, without thorns ... **Go to 15**
8c. Branches usually have thorns; fruit is a berry [HAWTHORN, BUCKTHORN] ... **Go to 33**
- 9a. Leaves simple (singly born on twigs); fruit is a pair of keys [MAPLE] ... **Go to 11**
9b. Leaves compound (numerous leaflets); fruit is a pair of keys — *Manitoba maple*
9c. Leaves compound (numerous leaflets); fruit is a bunch of single keys [ASH] ... **Go to 10**
- 10a. Leaflets >5, stalked and thin, bark soft and corky — *Black ash*
 10b. Leaflets >5, not stalked, twigs hairy, bark not soft and corky — *Red ash*
 10c. Leaflets >5, not stalked, twigs not hairy, bark not soft and corky — *White ash*
- 11a. Leaves have rounded sinuses ... **Go to 12**
11b. Leaves have sharp-angled sinuses ... **Go to 14**
- 12a. Basal lobes prominent ... **Go to 13**
 12b. Basal lobes poorly developed or absent — *Black maple*
- 13a. Bark is blocky and curling at sides — *Sugar maple*
 13b. Bark not blocky and not curling — *Norway maple*
- 14a. Leaves with shallow sharp-edged sinuses, bark curling at ends — *Red maple*
14b. Leaves with deep sinuses and silvery underside, bark curling at ends — *Silver maple*
14c. Leaves with huge middle lobe, small lateral lobes — *Amur maple*
- 15a. Leaves compound (numerous leaflets) ... **Go to 16**
15a. Leaves simple (singly born on twigs) ... **Go to 19**
- 16a. Leaflets roughly equal in size ... **Go to 18**
16b. Leaflets smaller towards stem, larger towards tip [HICKORY] ... **Go to 17**
- 17a. Mostly 5 leaflets, bark coarsely peeling — *Shagbark hickory*
 17b. Mostly 7+ leaflets, bark lined and not coarsely peeling — *Bitternut hickory*
- 18a. Leaflets small, ovate, toothed; orange berry fruit — *American mountain-ash*
 18b. Leaflets larger, not ovate, toothed; twigs densely hairy; dark red fruit — *Staghorn sumac*
 18c. Leaflets larger; twigs not hairy; prominent terminal leaflet — *Butternut* (at risk; tracked)
 18d. Leaflets larger; twigs not hairy; terminal leaflet stunted or absent — *Black walnut*
- 19a. Leaves lobed; acorn fruit [OAK] ... **Go to 20**
19b. Leaves not lobed ... **Go to 21**
- 20a. Lobes rounded, leaf is widest in the middle; twigs not corky — *White oak*
 20b. Lobes rounded, leaf is widest towards the top; twigs with corky ridges — *Bur oak*
 20c. Lobes pointed — *Red oak*

- 21a. Bark with lenticels (horizontal rice-shaped blotches) [BIRCH, CHERRY] ... **Go to 22**
21b. Bark without lenticels ... **Go to 25**
- 22a. Leaves tapered at both ends; bark not papery or shredding [CHERRY] ... **Go to 24**
22b. Leaves tapered at tips only; bark is papery or shredding [BIRCH] ... **Go to 23**
- 23a. Leaves ovate, with many teeth and veins; bronze bark — *Yellow birch*
23b. Leaves ovate or spade-shaped; bark white, often peeling — *White birch*
23c. Leaves smaller and diamond-shaped; bark white, not peeling — *Gray birch*
- 24a. Leaves widest in middle; lenticels white; bark is black “cornflakes” — *Black cherry*
24b. Leaves widest in middle; lenticels orange; brown bark — *Red cherry*
24c. Leaves widest towards tip; lenticel white; size is shrub or small tree only — *Choke cherry*
- 25a. Flat-stemmed leaves round or diamond-shaped; pale bark [POPLAR] ... **Go to 26**
25b. Round-stemmed leaves ovate, toothed ... **Go to 29**
- 26a. Leaves are toothed ... **Go to 27**
26b. Leaves are not toothed ... **Go to 28**
- 27a. Leaves diamond-shaped, not velvety white on underside — *Cottonwood*
27b. Leaves round, velvety white on underside — *White poplar*
- 28a. Leaves small, round, without rusty blotching on underside — *Trembling aspen*
28b. Leaves are oval, with rusty blotching on underside — *Balsam poplar*
- 29a. Leaves finely toothed, bases lopsided; bark light and furrowed; single trunk — *American elm*
29b. Leaves heart-shaped, coarsely toothed, bases lopsided; bark dark, multiple trunks — *Basswood*
29c. Leaf bases roughly equal-sided, not heart-shaped ... **Go to 30**
- 30a. Bark brown or tan, and peeling or shredding — *Ironwood*
30b. Bark smooth and silvery gray ... **Go to 31**
- 31a. Bark is dark or medium grey, furrowed (resembling muscle) — *Blue-beech*
31b. Bark is silvery gray, smooth ... **Go to 32**
- 32a. Leaves tapered, each vein ending in one tooth — *American beech*
32b. Leaves oval or round, not tapered — *Juneberry*
- 33a. Thorns small (<2 cm), leaves small and oval, sometimes opposite — *Common buckthorn*
33b. Thorns longer (3-7cm), leaves larger, coarsely toothed, alternate — *Hawthorn spp.*