

POISON PLANT IDENTIFICATION

Leaves of Three - Let Them Be...

While a good measure of poison ivy and oak is that they are made up of leaves of three (see photographs), poison sumac has 7-13 leaves, so it is important that you know what all of these plants look like.



The oil inside of the plant, called urushiol, is what causes the rash, not necessarily touching the leaf itself. The oil can get on your skin from handling tools, clothing, or even petting a dog which has come in contact with one of these poisonous plants.

Once the oil comes out of the plant, it gradually takes on the appearance of a black substance. If you should come into contact with the actual plant or a "mysterious" black substance, immediately wash the skin with soap and warm water to remove any oil. If you do this within 20 minutes from when you first touched the urushiol, you have a good chance of avoiding a totally itchy outbreak.

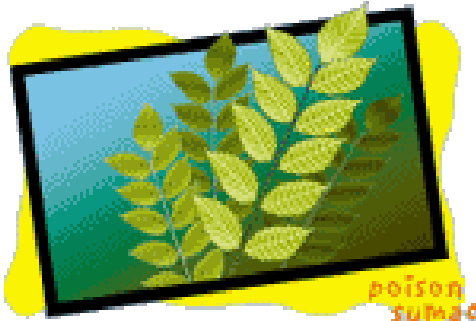


Avoid plant contact by wearing protective clothing (lightweight long pants, socks, long sleeves) when hiking in heavy growth areas.

Wash clothes and sneakers that were worn in areas where poison ivy is abundant, just in case any urushiol is left on them.

Despite the common myth, liquid from the blisters will not spread the rash, as long as all of the urushiol oil has been washed from the skin. Yet, even though it is safe to touch the area without fear of spreading the rash, it is best to leave it alone and not scratch for proper healing.

Never burn poisonous plants, since their toxic oils will become airborne and can be breathed in, causing a serious reaction in sensitive people.



(Source: www.lanakids.com)



BEAR FIELD BOOK

Name: _____

1. Red Oak

Leaves, generally, rather shallowly lobed, 7-11 lobes.

Leaves hairless, thin, and dull green. Very shallow acorn top. A dominant forest tree growing to 90' in moist to dry soils. Deer, bear, and many other mammals and birds eat the acorns. The hard strong wood is used for furniture, flooring, millwork, railroad ties and veneer. The "red oak group" includes all oaks with bristle-tipped leaves and acorns ripening over two seasons.

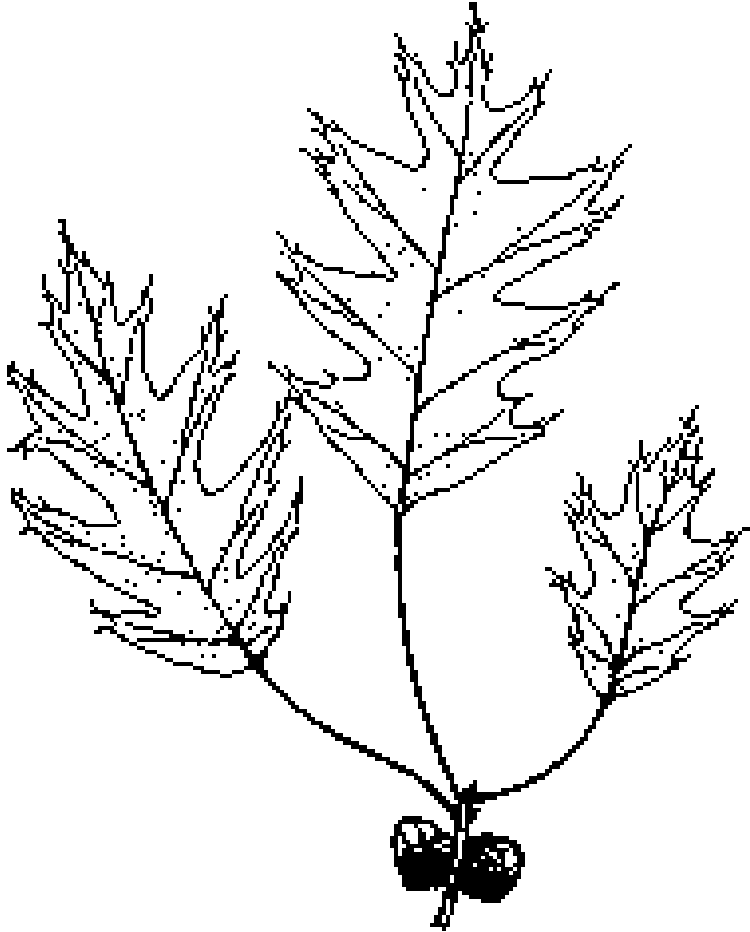
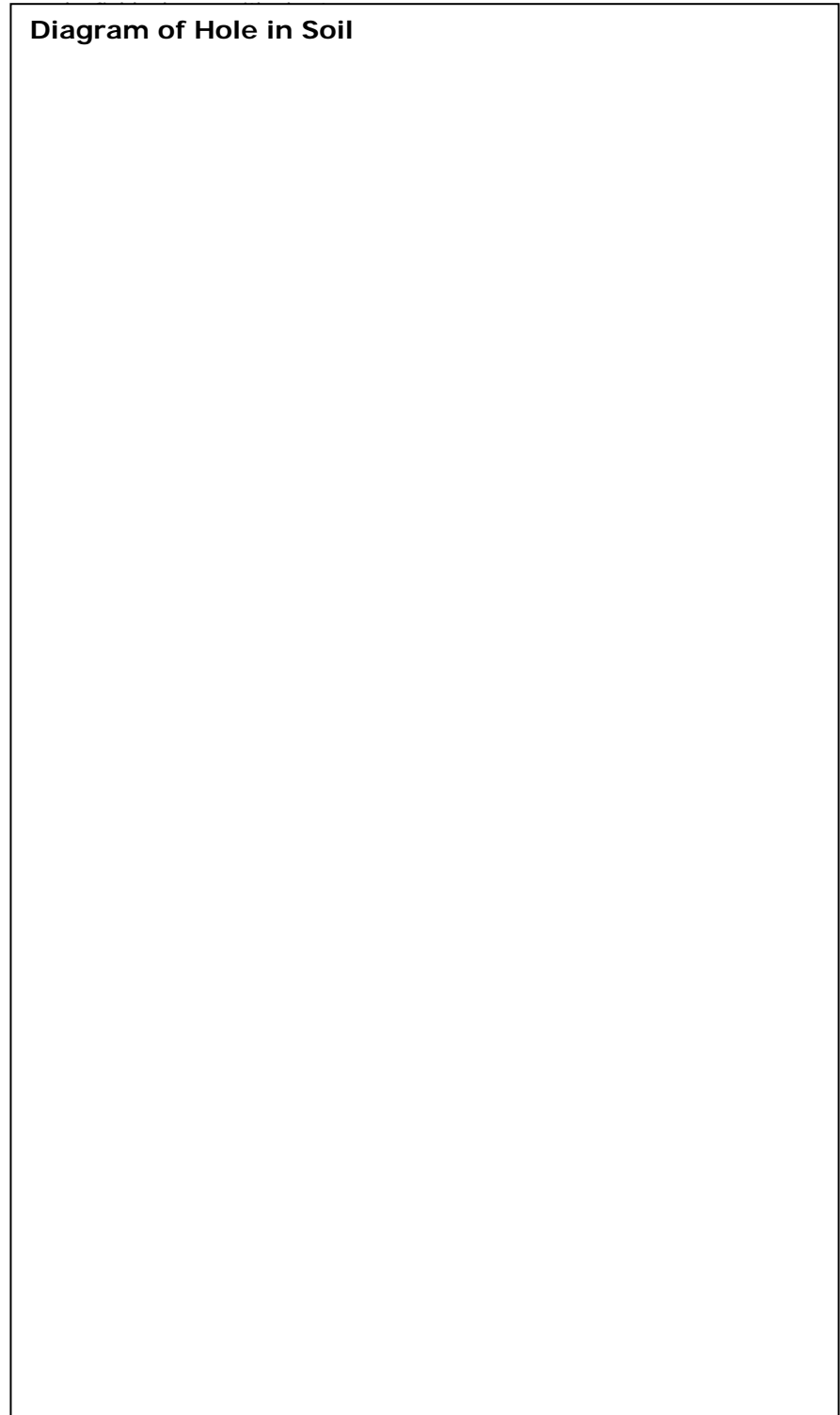


Diagram of Hole in Soil



Results of Soil Experiments

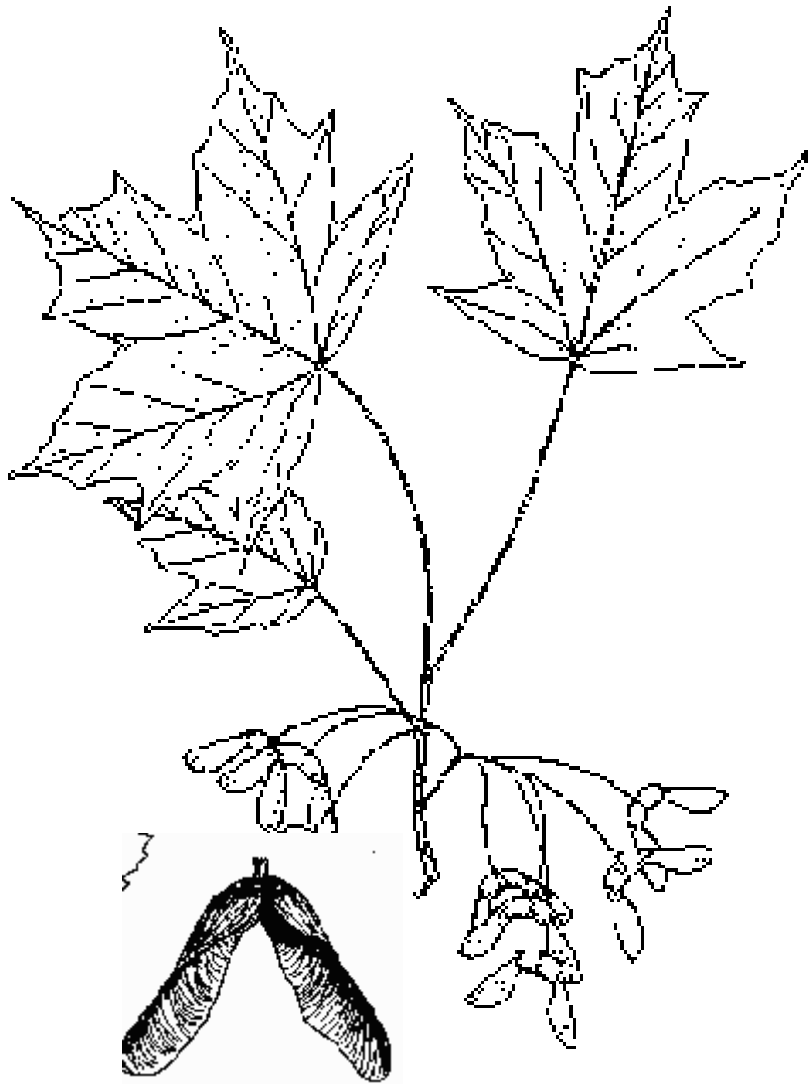
2. White Oak

Leaf rounded with 7-9 lobes, pale on lower surface. Bark gray to white, shallowly furrowed, sometimes shaggy. A dominant forest tree on dry to moist sites usually reaching 80'-100' high. This tree is very important to both wildlife and people. The acorn is an important wildlife food and eastern Native Americans made a flour from these acorns. Traditional uses of White oak wood include hardwood flooring, whiskey barrels and boat building. The famous Revolutionary War frigate, USS Constitution, "Old Ironsides", was made of White oak. The "white oak group" includes all oaks without bristle-tipped lobes and acorns that ripen in one season.



3. Maple

Opposite leaves, 5-lobed, moderately lobed. Leaf underside pale green. Leaf edges not drooping. Also called Rock maple for its hard wood, this important timber tree is found on moist wooded slopes, typically reaching 60'-80' high. Maple wood is used for furniture, musical instruments and flooring and the sap is tapped for maple syrup production. Maple is an excellent ornamental tree for large open areas. Birds and rodents eat the seeds. Deer, squirrels, porcupine and other mammals browse the twigs, buds and bark.



Results of Erosion Experiments

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Knots

Whipping Rope



Square Knot



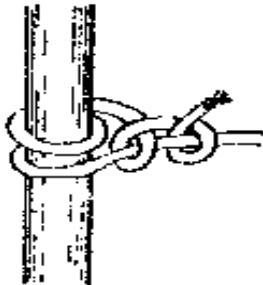
Bowline



Sheetbend



Two Half Hitches

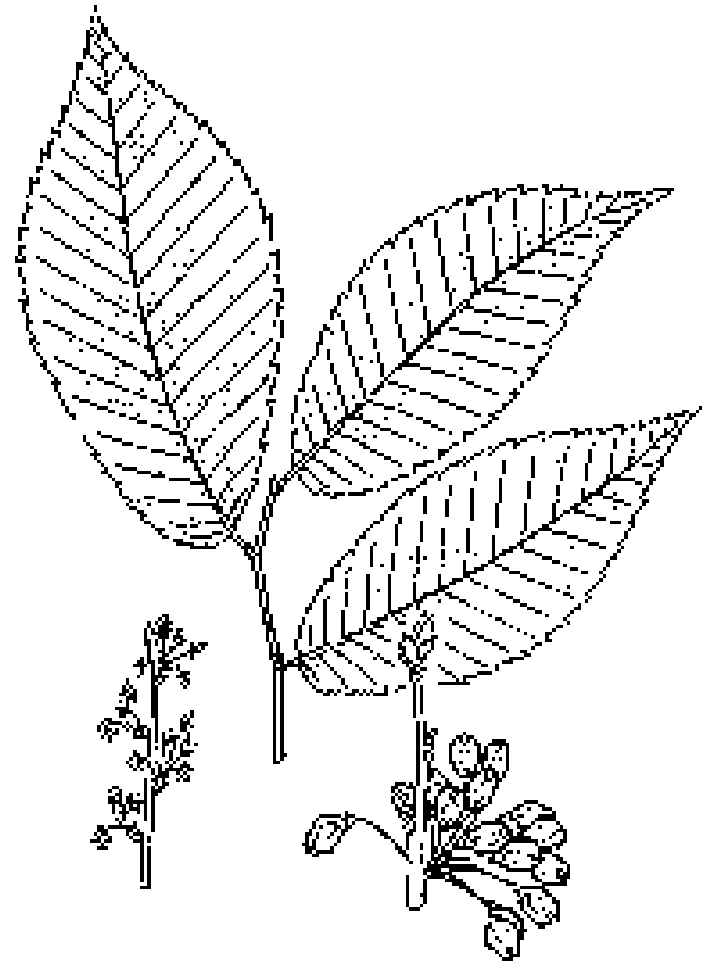


Slip Knot



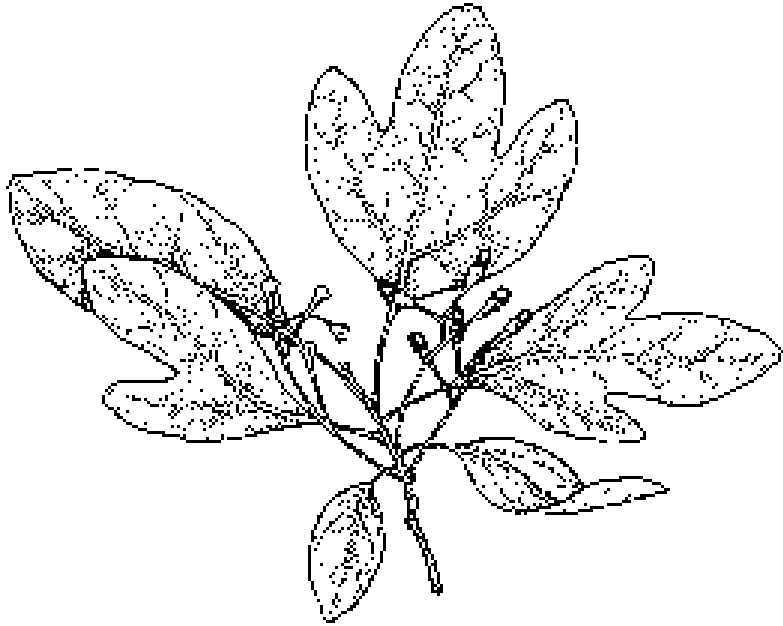
4. Elm

Leaf with asymmetrical base. Leaf double-toothed. American Elm- Upper leaf surface smooth. Slippery Elm- Upper leaf surface rough. A large and highly prized shade tree. The drooping crown often gives it a vase-shaped appearance. Found mainly on moist areas. The hard, tough wood has many uses, including the manufacture of boxes, barrels and furniture.



5. Sassafras

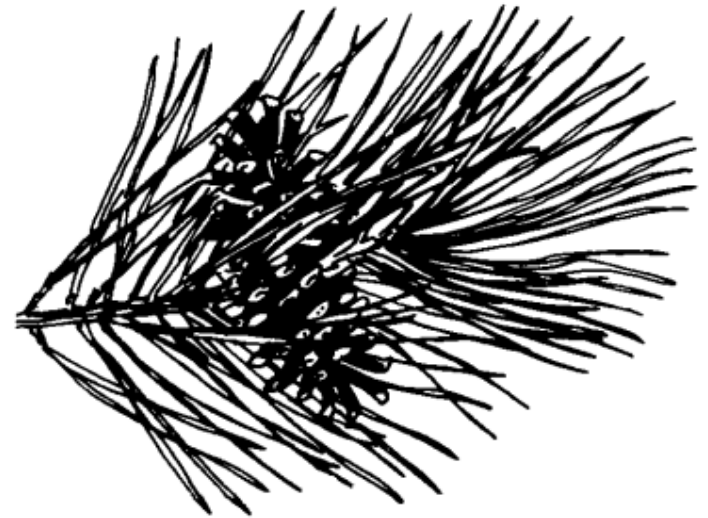
Leaves come in 3 shapes: either with 3, 2, or no lobes. Twigs green, smooth, and aromatic. A small to medium-sized tree, to 50' high, with crooked branches; often spreading by root suckers. Its roots, leaves, twigs and fruit have a spicy odor; the oil contained in these parts is used for a "tea," in medicines, perfumes, etc



14. Red Pine

Evergreen needles in clusters of 2 or 3, slender, 4"-6" long, dark green, borne in dense tufts at the ends of the branchlets: snap easily when bent double.

Like white pine, this medium to large-size tree develops one horizontal whorl of side branches each year. Songbirds, mice and chipmunks feed on the seeds.



13. White Pine

Evergreen needles in clusters of 5, soft flexible, 3-sided, 2½"-5" long, and bluish green. This is the only pine native to Pennsylvania with 5 needles per cluster.

Eastern white pines are large trees. At present they usually reach 50'-90'. It is one of the most valuable timber trees, found in moist or dry woodlands throughout the state and often planted as an ornamental in large open areas. Many birds, squirrels, chipmunks and mice feed on the seeds and soft needles. Inner bark of white pine is a preferred winter food of porcupine and deer browse the twigs.

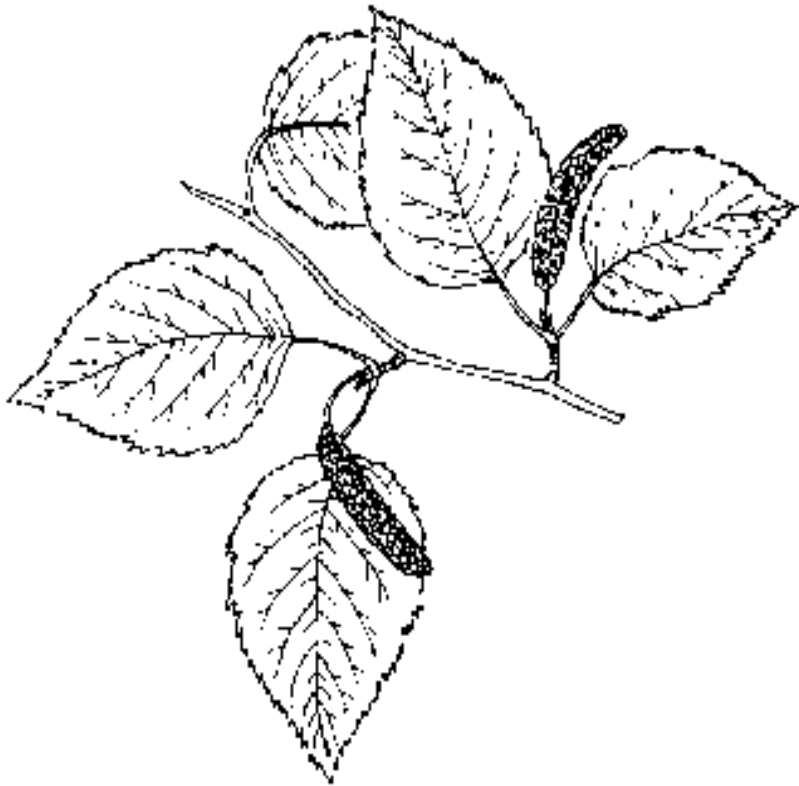
6. Black Cherry

Leaves narrow with fine teeth. Leaf midrib with rusty, sometimes white, hair. Bark becomes rough and nearly black. Commonly 50'-75' high. It thrives best in fertile alluvial soil but also grows on dry slopes. The hard reddish-brown wood is highly prized for quality furniture and interior trim. Many game birds, songbirds, and mammals, including black bear, eat the fruits and seeds.



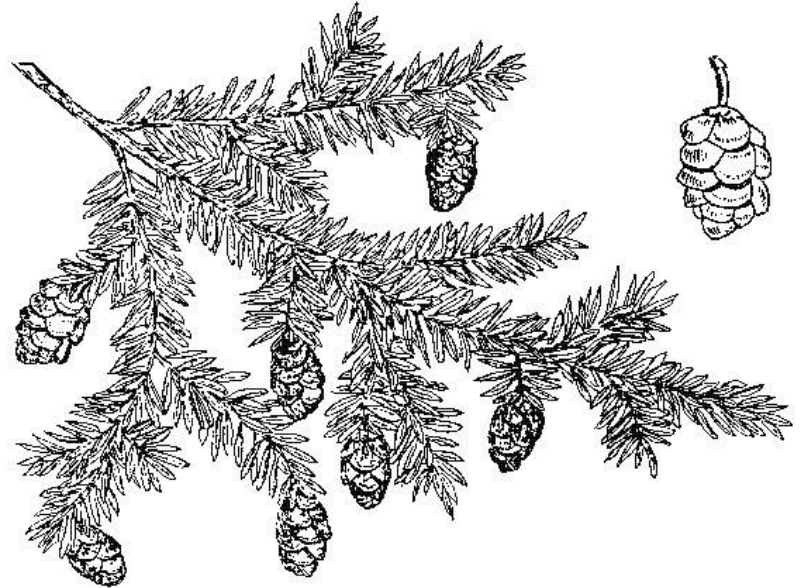
7. Birch

Alternate, simple 2"-3" long, 1½"-2" wide, upper surface dark green, lower surface light green, narrowed or rounded at the base, sharply toothed margins and sharp-pointed tip. Trunk and older branches chalky to creamy white, marked with horizontal stripes and peeling off in thin layers. Older trunks rough and often fissured into irregular thick scales. A large tree to 50'-75' high on upland woods and slopes. Seeds and buds are eaten by birds. Twigs are browsed by deer. Native Americans used the bark for constructing canoes, shelters and containers.



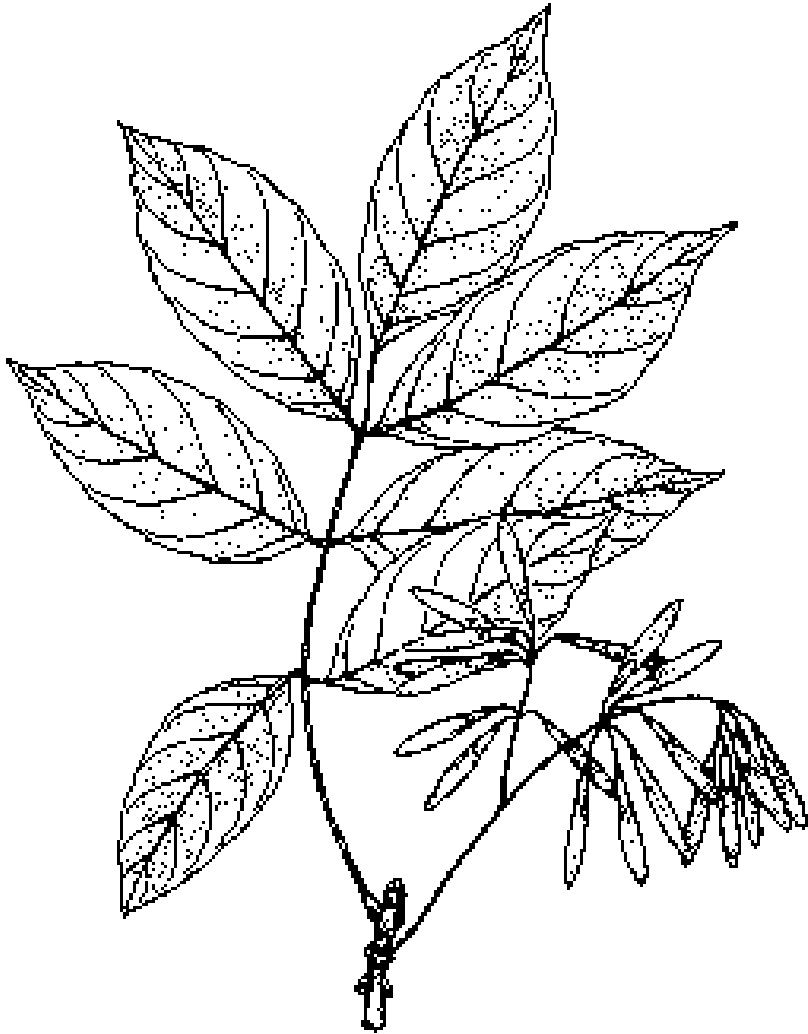
12. Hemlock

Evergreen needles occur singly, appearing 2-ranked on twigs, flattened, about 1/2" long, dark green and glossy, light green with 2 white lines below. A large, long-lived tree, important for construction timber and as a source of tannic acid for tanning leather. Found in cool, moist woods. Ruffed grouse, wild turkey and songbirds find food (seeds) and shelter in this tree. Deer browse it heavily when deep snow makes other food scarce.



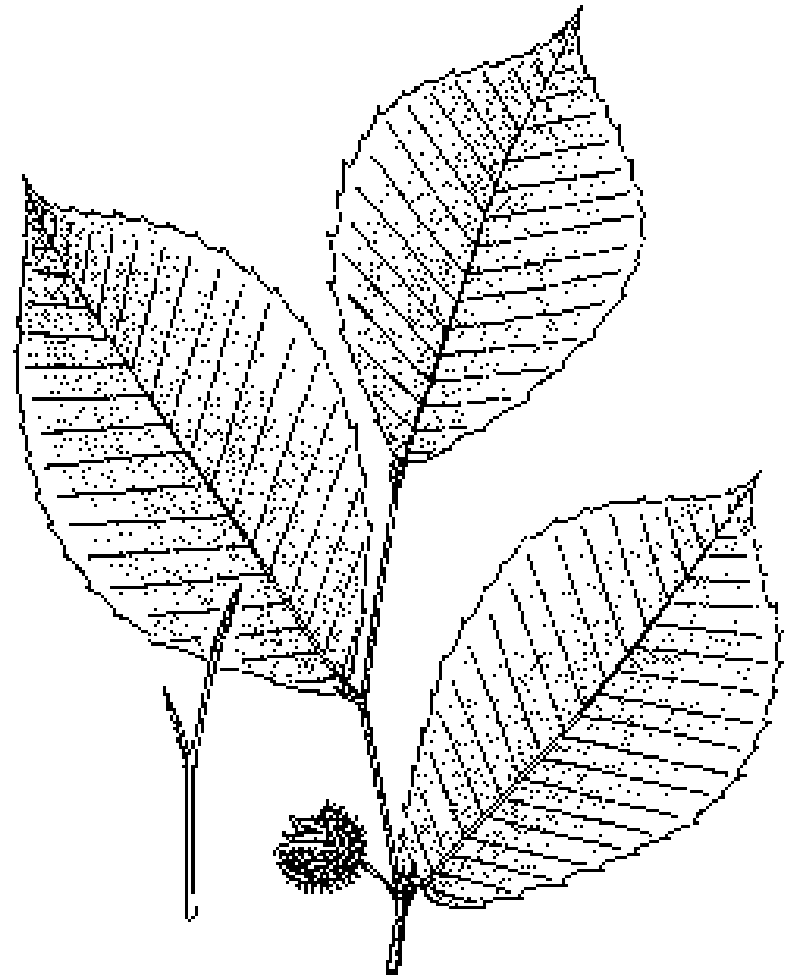
11. White Ash

Opposite, compound leaf, about 10" long, with 5-9 leaflets each 3"-5" long. Leaf pale, often white, on lower surface. Bark tight with interwoven pattern of ridges and furrows. A large tree, often up to 80 ft. or more usually with a long straight trunk commonly found on rich soils. The wood is used for sporting goods (especially baseball bats), handles, agricultural tools, and furniture. The juice from the leaf has been reported to relieve mosquito bite itching. Fall foliage colors range from brilliant yellow to dark maroon.



8. American Beech

Alternate, simple, 3"-4" long, stiff leathery texture, with a tapered tip and sharply toothed margins, light green and glossy above, yellow green below. Found on moist rich soils. An important timber species typically reaching 50'-60' high but can be higher. The beechnuts are very important food for wildlife including bears, squirrels, turkeys, and grouse. Beech is a handsome shade tree for large open areas in parks and golf courses.



9. Mountain Laurel

Leaf: Alternate, simple, evergreen, shiny/waxy above, light green below, 2 to 5 inches long, elliptical in shape, mid-vein raised on upper surfaces.

Flower: Very showy clusters, white to rose colored with purple markings, 1 inch across, with the petals forming a distinct firm bowl about the pistil and stamens. Present March to July.



10. Shagbark Hickory

Alternate, compound leaf, normally 5 large leaflets.

Bark gray and shredding. 8"-14" long, usually with 5 leaflets, This 70' to 80' tall tree is found in rich soils on slopes and valleys. The wood of hickory is heavy, hard, and strong and used for tool handles. Hickory is a valuable fuel wood and is used to give a smoked flavor to meats. The nuts are much relished by man and wildlife. The native Americans crushed the kernel, using the oil for cooking and the resulting flour for bread.

