Identifying Trees in Winter

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Additional Instructors for Today!

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Other Things To Use:

1. Bark
2. Buds
3. Leaf Scar
4. Pith
5. Fruit & Flowers
6. Thorns
7. Tree Form or Shape
8. Location-Site

Twig characteristics listed in red will be the focus of the talk.
Shagbark hickory
Persimmon and Blackgum
Flowering dogwood
black cherry
American beech
White ash
butternut
hackberry
Pitch pine
Sycamore and American beech
Yellow buckeye left and Ohio buckeye right
Legume fruit is bean like redbud
Yellow poplar fruit and silver maple fruit
Butternut fruit
persimmon
poison-ivy
Eastern burning bush or wahoo
Ash seed – white, green and black
Bur oak acorn
Acorns: northern red oak, black oak and scarlet oak
Hickories clock-wise from upper left – shagbark, mockernut, pignut and bitternut
Cones – note shape, color size, armed etc
Needles – number in bundle length, color

Virginia pine
European black alder
Flowers? Fall and Winter?

Witch hazel
Form – American elm
Northern catalpa - notice fruits on branch tips
baldcypress
Tree of heaven or ailanthus left; Ohio buckeye right
Black walnut; box-elder (note twig color) and northern catalpa
Buds Opposite - Think M A D Buck!

- Maple
- Ash
- Dogwood
- Buckeye
Sugar maple and red maple
White ash – note branching in background
Blue ash, green ash
Dogwoods

Flowering dogwood opposite leaf arrangement
Buckeyes

Top right – yellow buckeye bud more rounded, keels not as prominent no offensive odor
Bottom left – horse chestnut, large rounded buds very glossy; bottom right – Ohio buckeye, k
Terminal Buds

Single Terminal bud – yellow-poplar; cluster of buds (bur oak – bear claws); and pseudo term
Cluster of Terminal Buds

White oak (rounded buds); black oak (longer sharp buds) swamp white, bur
Lateral Buds

American elm and American sycamore
Varying bud lengths are also a good clue -- Clockwise from upper left – American beech, service berry, black cherry and sourwood.
Umbrella magnolia and bigleaf magnolia
Flower Buds

Pawpaw and flowering dogwood
spicebush
Naked bud, sulfur yellow - bitternut hickory; large bud with deciduous older scales – mockernut hickory
Large bud old scales persistent – shellbark/kingnut hickory (shagbark looks similar)
Budscales – 3 or less basswood also pseudo terminal buds
Budscales – many red mulberry
Horseshoe shaped leaf scar – white ash
Monkey face – black walnut
American sycamore – leaf scar encircles the entire bud (hidden with leaf on) kentucky coffeet
Leaf scar and bundle scars
Left – blackgum  right-sweet gum  (both have three bundle scars)
Spines top right - hawthorn
Spur shoots – crabapple (note buds on spurs)
Thorns – honeylocust &

Paired spines - black locust
Devil’s walking stick
Pith

Solid – shingle oak, diaphragmed – blackgum, and chambered – black walnut
Royal paulownia
Sassafrass – twig color
Sweetgum – twig texture corky ridges
Lenticles and hairs on twigs
Smooth sumac, shining or winged sumac and staghorn sumac
American hazelnut
American hazlenut
Catkins = male flowers found mainly on birch family
European black alder
Rachis
vTree Twig Key

Terminal bud, in this case pubescent (fuzzy).

Leaf scar, where the leaf was attached.

Vascular bundle scars, where the xylem entered the leaf and phloem entered the twig.

Lateral bud

Pubescence might appear on the bud or on the twig, in this case it appears on both.

Leaf arrangement, in this case the leaves do not appear opposite each other but alternate on the twig.

Pith, in this case chambered (divided).

More information about vTree.

to the top
Yes, there’s an APP for that!

vTree
Reference

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The Future of Oak is in Our Hands!

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