

# FIELD GUIDE

Trees of  
Manitoba

Manitoba 



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# MANITOBA'S ECOZONES

Manitoba is divided into six ecozones: boreal plains, boreal shield, Hudson plains, prairie, southern arctic and taiga shield. Each zone has its own characteristics, including native trees.

## BOREAL PLAINS

The boreal plains ecozone consists of plains and valleys. Much of it is forested with spruce, balsam fir and jack pine. Broadleaf trees such as aspen and poplar are common.

## BOREAL SHIELD

This zone is dominated by forests. The dominant coniferous species are black spruce, jack pine, white spruce, tamarack and balsam fir. Trembling aspen, white birch and balsam poplar are the most common deciduous species.

## HUDSON PLAINS

The northern part of this ecozone is largely treeless, though areas further south grow open forest. Southern, wet locations grow willow, tamarack and black spruce.

## PRAIRIE

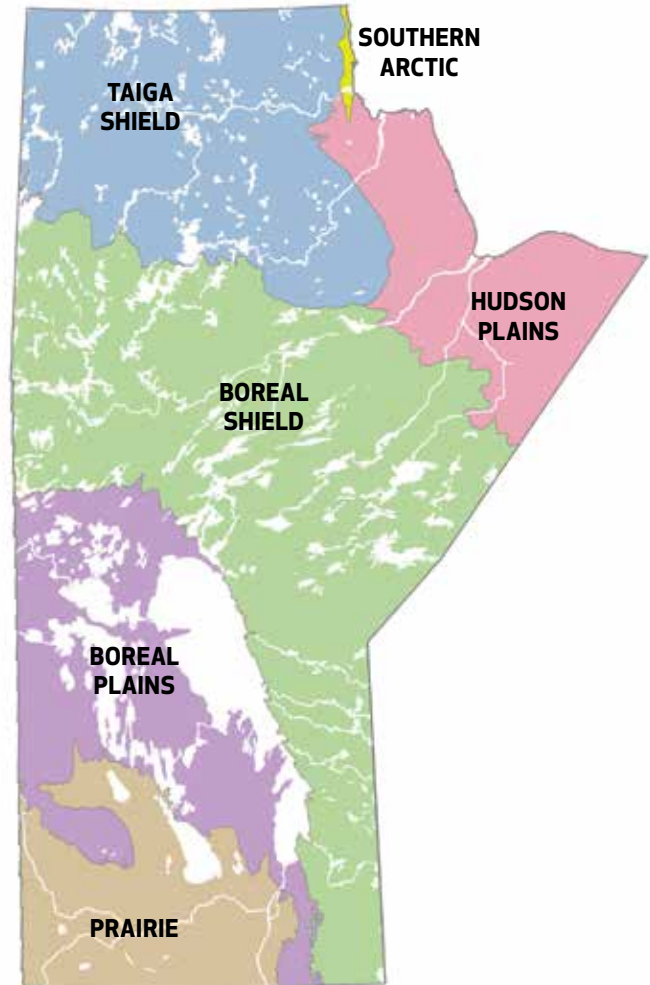
This zone is dominated by flat plains, the majority of which is used for agriculture. The north prairie ecozone features trembling aspen and balsam poplar.

## SOUTHERN ARCTIC

Of the arctic ecozones, this ecozone has the most extensive vegetation cover and the highest diversity of species. It is characterized by dwarf shrubs.

## TAIGA SHIELD

In the taiga shield, much of the forest is open, and tree growth is often stunted due to permafrost and cold temperatures. Black spruce and jack pine dominate, though trees such as trembling aspen and white birch can be found.





# SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT



Sustainable forest management is a way of using and caring for forests to maintain their environmental, social, and economic values and benefits.

Sustainable forest management balances the demand for natural resources and the vitality of the forest.

In Manitoba, sustainable forest management decisions and activities are based on scientific research, rigorous planning processes and public consultation. In this way, sustainable forest management protects the long-term value of the forest.

Sustainable forest management ensures that forests are available for generations to come.





## IDENTIFYING MANITOBA'S TREES

Although many trees may look alike, a closer inspection of their leaves and twigs will reveal their character and distinctiveness.

In Manitoba, there are 24 native trees. While some are seen only in localized areas, the majority are within a half-day's drive from most homes. This field guide will help readers understand what features to look for in order to easily identify all 24 native Manitoba trees.

When identifying trees, it is important to note that not all members of the same species will look alike. For example, trees growing in dense forest will shed their lower branches. They will be more pole-like and narrower

than trees growing in open areas. Some trees that grow tall in one area may hardly develop into more than a shrub in another. The shape of a tree alone, therefore, is not always the best guide for identification. Leaf shape, bud growth, bark, flowers, and cones should also be used. As well, very young trees have different forms, leaf stages, etc. from their mature characteristics.

In this guide, a tree is generally defined as a woody plant having one well-defined trunk and a recognizable crown. It must grow to a minimum height of 4.5 metres at maturity and have a trunk diameter of not less than five centimetres.



# MANITOBA TREE SILHOUETTES

Trees may look alike, however, a closer inspection of their silhouette will reveal their unique characteristics.



**BALSAM  
FIR**



**BLACK  
SPRUCE**



**EASTERN WHITE  
CEDAR**



**BUR  
OAK**



**COTTONWOOD**



**GREEN  
ASH**



**EASTERN WHITE  
PINE**



**JACK  
PINE**



**RED  
PINE**



**HACKBERRY**



**HOP-HORNBEAM**



**LARGETOOTH  
ASPEN**



**TAMARACK**



**WHITE  
SPRUCE**



**AMERICAN  
ELM**



**MANITOBA  
MAPLE**



**PEACHLEAF  
WILLOW**



**SHOWY  
MOUNTAIN ASH**



**BALSAM  
POPLAR**



**BASSWOOD**



**BLACK  
ASH**



**TREMBLING  
ASPEN**



**WHITE  
BIRCH**



**WILD  
PLUM**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Manitoba Sustainable Development thanks Mr. Oswald, Mr. Nokes, and the Canadian Forest Service for producing the original publication of the field guide in 1979.

The Department also thanks Indigenous Languages of Manitoba Inc. for providing Cree, Dakota, Dene, Michif, Ojibwe and Ojibwe-Cree translations in 2019.

In some instances, indigenous language translations are unavailable. For example, Dene (a language spoken in the north), does not have a translation for white pine, which grows in the extreme south east corner of Manitoba.

## USING THIS GUIDE

This booklet provides many ways to identify trees using tree silhouettes, bark, leaves and winter twigs.

First, familiarize yourself with the terms used in this guide. Look at the tree silhouette and compare it to the ones in this guide. Next, use the charts on the following pages to help identify the tree.

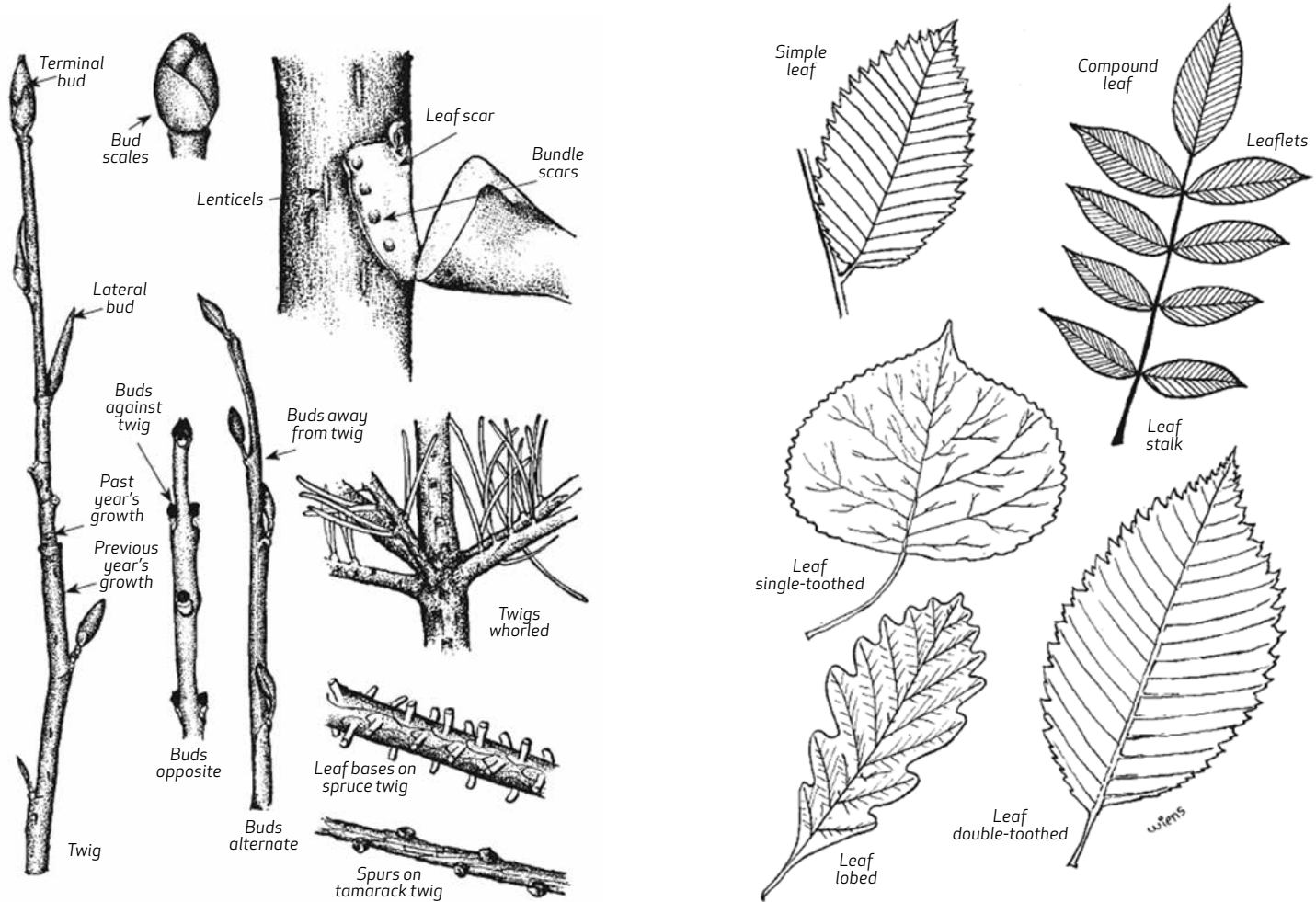
Look at the leaf shape and identify the buds and the way they grow on the twig. In the winter, you can use twigs to identify the tree.

To confirm tree identification, turn to the full description of the tree in this book and compare other details such as general form, bark and distribution.



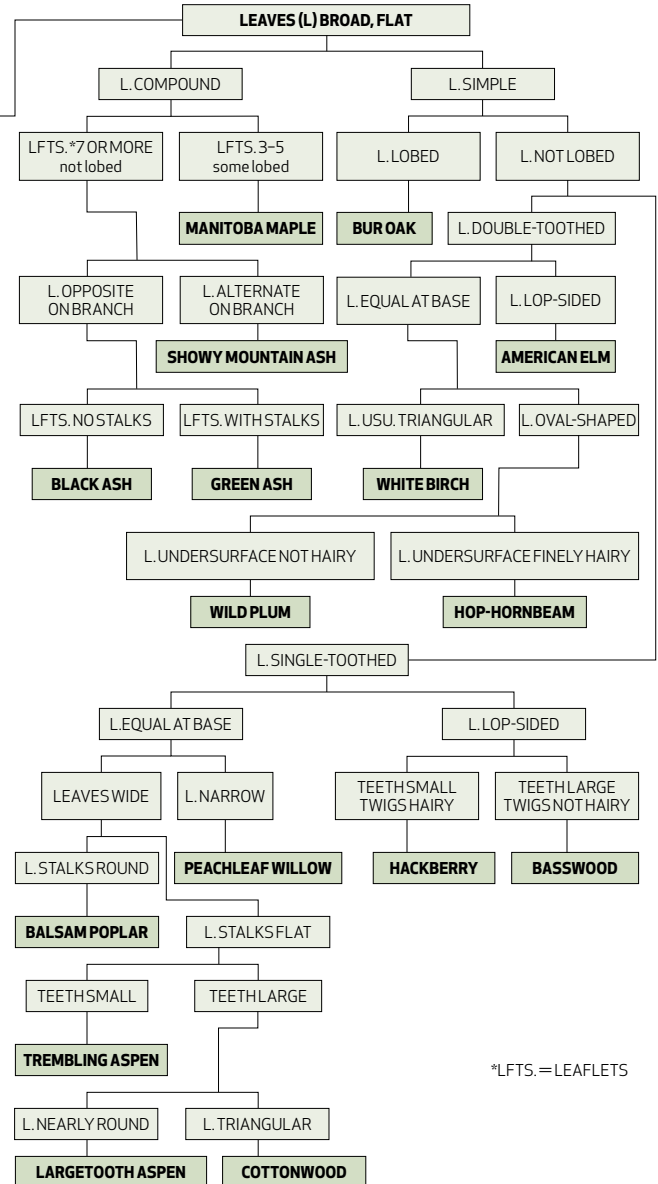
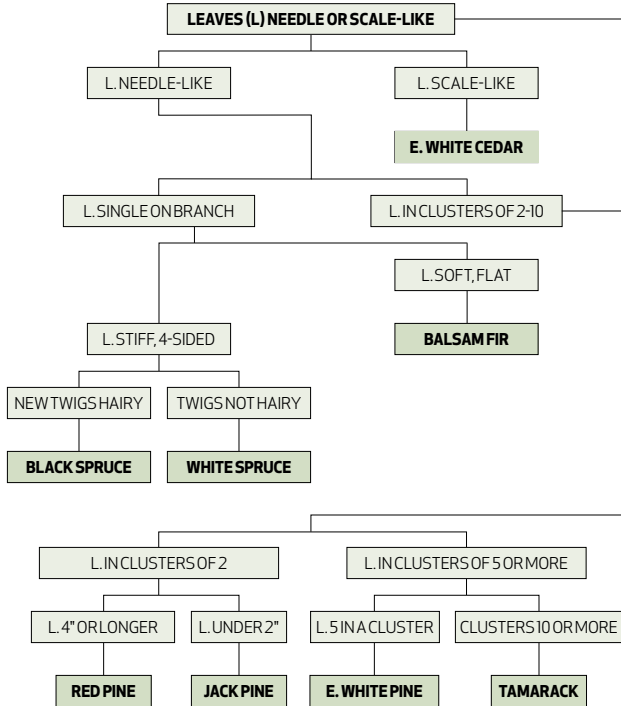
# ILLUSTRATED TERMS

A graphic guide to technical terms found in this book.



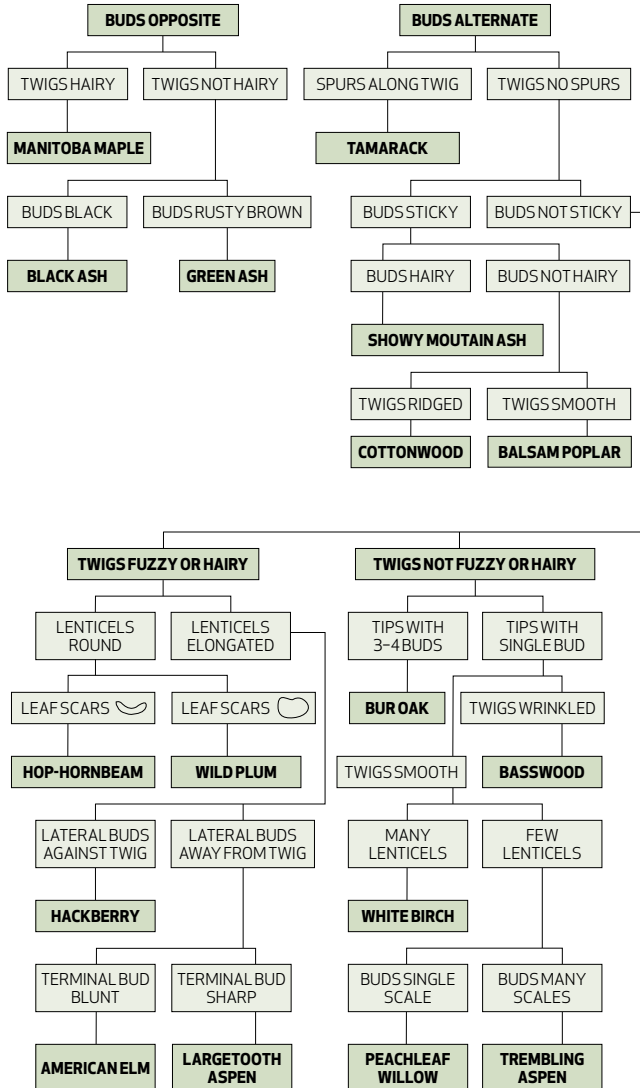


# Guide to trees based on their leaves



\*LFTS. = LEAFLETS

## Guide to trees based on their winter twigs





# Coniferous Trees





# BALSAM FIR

*Abies balsamea* (L.) Mill.

Cree: Napakátik

Michif: Lyayr

Ojibwe: Zhingob(iig)

Ojibwe-Cree: Napakaantak



## FORM

A moderately dense evergreen tree with a slender symmetrical spire-shaped crown.

## BARK

Grey, smooth-to-roughened by raised resin blisters on young trees, becoming cracked and scaly on older trees.

## TWIGS

Opposite, grey, slender, smooth, more or less hairy. Buds about 5 mm with greenish-brown scales covered with resin.

## LEAVES

Single, flat, twisted at base, needle-like, soft, rounded or notched at tip, 15–25 mm long, usually spreading into one plane; whitened below along two lines.

## FLOWERS

April–May, solitary from base of previous year's leaves, red or purple, oval.

## FRUIT

An erect, oblong, dark purple cone with thin scales attached to upper side of branches, 4–10 cm long; disintegrating at maturity leaving cone axis on branch.

## OCCURRENCE

Fairly common throughout forested region, except extreme north, in moist habitats; usually mixed with other tree species.

## NOTES

The needles and sap are flammable and can help to start a fire.



# BLACK SPRUCE

*Picea mariana* (Mill.) B.S.P.

Cree: Kakitéwi Minahik

Dene: Ehl

Michif: La nipinet nwayr

Ojibwe: Zesegaandag

Ojibwe-Cree: Shikop



## FORM

A dense evergreen tree; crown generally irregularly pyramidal and symmetrical but tip often club-shaped; lower branches drooping, lowest branches with tips upturned.

## BARK

Thin, brown-to-greyish scales; inner bark olive-greenish tinged.

## TWIGS

Irregularly whorled, hairy, light brown when young, darkening with age, roughened by outward pointing leaf bases. Buds slightly hairy, 3–5 mm long with many overlapping brown scales.

## LEAVES

Single, short stalked, sharp-pointed, stiff, four-sided, bluish green, whitened along

sides, needle-like, about 8–15 mm long.

## FLOWERS

May, solitary on preceding year's twig, dark red or purple, oval.

## FRUIT

Egg-shaped cones about 2–3 cm long with thin brown scales, usually remain on the tree for more than one year; most trees have a cluster of persistent cones near the top.

## OCCURRENCE

Wide-spread throughout the forested region; in the south mostly in bogs or wet habitats but often on mineral soil in the west and north.

## NOTES

Long ago, parts of the tree were used to make dolls for children.





# EASTERN WHITE CEDAR

*Thuja occidentalis* L.

Cree: Místi Wápi Másikéskátik

Dakota: Khante chan

Ojibwe: Giizhikaatig



## FORM

A dense, compact evergreen tree with a cone-shaped crown, often occurring in clumps.

## BARK

Thin, shreddy, with narrow elongated fibrous strips; reddish-to-pale brown.

## TWIGS

Alternate, slender, flattened, fan-shaped, covered with green sharp-pointed scales that become brown with age and shed in three to four years. Leaf buds are covered with leaves but cone buds slightly emerge at tips of some branches.

## LEAVES

Scale-like, paired, overlapping, short, 3–6 mm, tight against the twigs, yellowish green in colour.

## FLOWERS

May, solitary at tip of twig, yellow or pink, small and oval.

## FRUIT

An oblong erect cone about 12 mm long with 4–6 pairs of thin, brown, rounded cone scales.

## OCCURRENCE

Mostly in wet habitats in southeastern Manitoba but occasionally between Lake Winnipeg and Lake Winnipegosis as far north as Grand Rapids.

## NOTES

One of Manitoba's oldest trees, it can grow up to 400 years old.





# EASTERN WHITE PINE

*Pinus strobus* L.

Cree: Místi Wápi Minahik

Dakota: Wazichan

Ojibwe: Zhingwaak

Ojibwe-Cree: Minahik



## FORM

A medium-sized evergreen tree with a broadly cylindrical-to-irregular crown when open-grown; narrower in closed stands.

## BARK

Thin, smooth, greyish-green when young, becoming rough, dark grey, deeply furrowed with scaly ridges.

## TWIGS

Opposite or whorled, slender, greenish-grey, roughened by leaf bases at first but becoming smooth and brown. Buds 15 mm long with light brown pointed scales.

## LEAVES

Needle-like, soft, 5–15 cm long, finely-toothed, in clusters of five with a deciduous brown sheath at base.

## FLOWERS

May, in clusters near tip of twig, yellowish or pinkish, oval.

## FRUIT

Cone, almost cylindrical and sometimes curved, 8–20 cm on curved stems; cone scales thin, brown and not barbed.

## OCCURRENCE

Extreme southeastern Manitoba in dry habitats; rare.

## NOTES

Were used to produce Royal Navy ship masts.



# JACK PINE

*Pinus banksiana* Lamb.

Cree: Oskatátik

Dene: Geneh

Dakota: Wazichan

Michif: Aen pinet

Ojibwe: Akikaandag

Ojibwe-Cree: Ohkihkahtik



## FORM

A medium-sized evergreen tree with a narrow, open crown; crown rather small in dense stands but becomes bushy and extends near the ground in open areas.

## BARK

Brownish with thin, irregularly furrowed scales.

## TWIGS

Whorled, reddish-brown, slender, usually with narrow elongated ridges, slightly roughened by leaf bases. Buds about 15 mm long, with many small, brown, sticky scales.

## LEAVES

Needle-like, 2–4 cm long, stiff, in clusters of two with a brown sheath at base, sometimes minutely toothed.

## FLOWERS

May, in clusters near tip of twig, yellow or purple, elongated.

## FRUIT

A brown cone, 3–7 cm long, usually curved, occurring in pairs, scales thickened at tips, cones persist on the trees, usually remaining closed.

## OCCURRENCE

Very common in dry to moist habitats throughout the forested region.

## NOTES

The cones are serotinous, meaning that they open in high heat from the sun or fire.





## RED PINE

*Pinus resinosa* Ait.

Cree: Nikwátiko

Dakota: Wazichan

Michif: Pinet roozh

Ojibwe: Zhingwaak

Bapakwanagemag



### FORM

A large evergreen tree with a round, symmetrical, open crown; devoid of lower branches especially in dense stands, branches nearly horizontal.

### BARK

Reddish-brown with smooth, broad, scaly plates.

### TWIGS

Opposite or single, light brown but soon darkening, stout, roughened by projecting leaf bases. Buds up to 2 cm long with many reddish-brown scales with tips turned back.

### LEAVES

Needle-like, 10–16 cm long, in clusters of two with a brown sheath at base, soft, minutely-toothed.

### FLOWERS

May, in clusters near tip of twig, red or purple, elongated.

### FRUIT

A stalkless, egg-shaped cone, 4–7 cm long; scales thickened at outer edge but not barbed.

### OCCURRENCE

In dry habitats in southeastern Manitoba, also on Black Island, Lake Winnipeg; not common.

### NOTES

Seen most commonly in plantations in the southeast forests of Manitoba.





# TAMARACK (LARCH)

*Larix laricina* (Du Roi) K.Koch

Cree: Wákinátik

Dene: Nidheh

Michif: Tamarack

Ojibwe: Mashkiigwaatig

Ojibwe-Cree: Mashkiikwahtik



## FORM

A small tree with an open, light-green, usually symmetrical crown. The only native conifer that loses its needles each autumn.

## TWIGS

Alternate, slender, flexible, slightly hairy, light-brown but darkening with age; roughened by thin scales with upturned tips. Buds with numerous small scales, elevated on spurs on older branches.

## LEAVES

Needle-like, 20–50 mm long, in sheathless clusters of 12 to 20 from spurs on older branches, soft, flexible, pale green in summer and turning yellow in autumn.

## FLOWERS

With leaves, solitary on short spurs, yellow or red, small, semi-circular.

## FRUIT

Erect, egg-shaped brownish cone, 1–5 cm long, composed of about 20 rounded thin scales.

## OCCURRENCE

In bogs and wet habitats throughout most of the forested region.

## NOTES

The bark and rotted wood can be burned to smoke fish and hides.



# WHITE SPRUCE

*Picea glauca* (Moench) Voss

Cree: Minahik

Dene: Tzu'cho

Michif: La nipint blaam

Ojibwe: Zesegaandag



## FORM

A dense evergreen tree with a pyramidal crown composed of horizontal branches, often the lower branches having upturned tips.

## BARK

Thin, grey-to-brown scales that flake off readily on older trees; inner bark cinnamon to light silvery-white.

## TWIGS

Irregularly whorled, yellowish-brown, becoming darker with age, covered with small, elongated, spirally arranged leaf bases making twigs and branches rough. Buds 6 mm long with many overlapping brown scales.

## LEAVES

Single, sharp-pointed, needle-like, stiff, four-sided, whitened along sides, up to about 15 mm

long; more numerous on upper side of twig.

## FLOWERS

May, solitary on preceding year's twig, red or yellow, oval.

## FRUIT

Cones which usually drop in one year but some often persist scattered about the crown; 3–6 cm long; scales brown, thin.

## OCCURRENCE

Common throughout the forested region on well-drained habitats or along streams and around lakes.

## NOTES

White spruce is the provincial tree of Manitoba. This wood can be used for wood frames, snowshoes, tent poles; and its pitch can be used to seal the joints of birch bark canoes.





A photograph of a forest during autumn. The trees are mostly deciduous, with many leaves turned yellow and brown. The trunks are thin and light-colored. The overall scene is a dense thicket of trees with some green leaves still visible at the bottom.

# Deciduous Trees



# AMERICAN ELM (WHITE ELM)

*Ulmus americana* L.

Cree: Wápiski Acapaskátik

Dakota: Wagha chan/  
tazhushka chan

Ojibwe: Aniiib



## FORM

A large deciduous tree, slender in dense stands but branching from near the ground in open areas, its large limbs spread to give it a graceful, vase-like appearance.

## BARK

Dark-grey, rough, furrowed when old.

## TWIGS

Alternate, slender, smooth or hairy; terminal buds conical, about 5 mm long, reddish-brown, somewhat hairy; lateral buds smaller. Flower buds rounded, larger. Leaf scars nearly oval, tan, with about five prominent bundle scars across middle. Lenticels common, yellowish-brown, elongated.

## LEAVES

Alternate, simple, oval, sharp-pointed, unequal at base, coarse double-toothed, 10–15 cm long.

## FLOWERS

Before leaves, small, purplish or yellowish, on long stems in loose drooping clusters.

## FRUIT

Oval, dry, one-seeded, flattened, winged with a hairy margin, about 8–10 mm in diameter, usually notched at tip.

## OCCURRENCE

Southern Manitoba on rich, moist, well-drained habitats.

## NOTES

Known for its susceptibility to Dutch elm disease, a fungus that causes the tree to wilt and die.



# BALSAM POPLAR (BLACK POPLAR)

*Populus balsamifera* L.

Cree: Mayimítos

Dakota: Yatkanpi chan

Ojibwe: Maanzaadi



## FORM

Medium-sized deciduous tree with long cylindrical trunk and a narrow, open crown of stout limbs.

## BARK

Smooth, becoming furrowed into thick ridges, whitish to greyish-brown.

## TWIGS

Alternate, moderately stout, round, shiny, smooth, bright reddish-brown. Lenticels few, mostly inconspicuous. Terminal bud sharp, pointed, up to 25 mm long, shiny, very gummy with a fragrant odour, chestnut-brown; lateral buds smaller, pressed against twig. Leaf scars moon-shaped, small, with three bundle scars.

## LEAVES

Alternate, simple, oval, tapering to tip, rounded at base (or heart-shaped at base in var. *subcordata* Hylander), fine-toothed, 7–10 mm long, with a yellowish metallic lustre on undersurface.

## FLOWERS

Before leaves, in drooping dense catkins.

## FRUIT

With leaves, smooth, capsule about 6–7 mm long, in catkins.

## OCCURRENCE

Throughout moist habitats in the forested ecozones of Manitoba; except extreme north.

## NOTES

The aromatic buds of balsam poplar have been called the balm of Gilead.





# BASSWOOD (LINDEN)

*Tilia americana* L.

Cree: Napakátik  
Ojibwe: Wiigob



## FORM

Medium-to-large deciduous tree, varies from a single, straight trunk with narrow or long pyramid crown; sometimes divided trunks with two or more heavy, wide-spreading limbs.

## BARK

Dark grey, smooth on young trees; but becoming furrowed into soft, flat scaly ridges.

## TWIGS

Alternating, smooth, shiny red or green, wrinkled. Lenticels are common, elongated, rusty-brown. Terminal bud is broad, about 6 mm long, greenish-brown, shiny, composed of two tight scales and one lateral scale that is somewhat separated from others, making it long-sided; lateral buds similar but smaller. Leaf scars

moon-shaped, brown, bundle scars few.

## LEAVES

Alternate, simple, heart-shaped, abruptly pointed at tip, coarsely toothed, lop-sided, 12–16 cm long.

## FLOWERS

With leaves or later, cream-coloured, fragrant.

## FRUIT

A pale-brown, hard, nut-like berry, about 1 cm in diameter, in small open clusters, droops from an elongated, smooth-margined leaf.

## OCCURRENCE

Southern Manitoba; from Spruce Woods eastward, along river banks.

## NOTES

Basswood is a source of nectar for bees.



# BLACK ASH

*Fraxinus nigra* Marsh.

Cree: Kakitéwi Maskominátik

Dakota: Pse khti chan sapa

Michif: Li frenn nwayr

Ojibwe: Baapaagimaak



## FORM

Medium-to-large deciduous tree with narrow open crown.

## BARK

Greyish, scaly, shallow-furrowed into soft, often spongy, ridges.

## TWIGS

Opposite, round, stout, smooth, grey. Terminal bud about 4–10 mm long, dark brown to black, pointed with two large lateral scales; lateral buds smaller, nearly circular. Leaf scars heart-shaped to nearly circular, prominent, with a line of prominent bundle scars following contour of leaf scars. Lenticels elongated, yellowish-to-dark brown.

## LEAVES

Opposite, compound, 15–30 cm long, composed of 7 to 11 lance-shaped, fine-toothed leaflets, 10–14 cm long, stalkless and arranged in pairs.

## FLOWERS

Before leaves, small, in clusters.

## FRUIT

Single, dry, with elongated wing, 2.5–4 cm long, blunt at both ends.

## OCCURRENCE

Southeastern Manitoba to Lake Manitoba, along stream banks and in moist habitats.

## NOTES

Ash trees are considered at risk because of the threat of emerald ash borer.





## BUR OAK (SCRUB OAK)

*Quercus macrocarpa* Michx.

Cree: Maskawátik

Michif: La shenn

Ojibwe: Mitigomizh



### FORM

A small-to-medium sized deciduous tree with a broad, rounded crown composed of variously spreading stout branches.

### BARK

Light brown, rough, divided by deep furrows into scaly, flaky plates.

### TWIGS

Alternate, stout, ridged, hairy at first but becoming hairless. Lenticels small, oval, yellowish-brown. Terminal bud hairy, about 3–6 mm long, surrounded by five narrow hairy bracts and two or more lateral buds; lateral buds about same size. Leaf scars moon-shaped, raised, brown; bundle scars in two curved rows, yellowish, not prominent.

### LEAVES

Alternate, simple, prominently lobed, 15–30 cm long, finely hairy beneath.

### FLOWERS

After leaves, male in catkins, female single or few in a cluster.

### FRUIT

An acorn, 20–30 mm long, half covered by cap, maturing in one year.

### OCCURRENCE

Common in southern Manitoba, north to The Pas; often in river bottom forests, occasionally in uplands.

### NOTES

One of the longest living deciduous trees in Manitoba, sensitive to ground disturbance.



# COTTONWOOD

*Populus deltoides* Bartr.

Cree: Tasékátik

Dakota: Wagha chan



## FORM

A large deciduous tree with a conical crown of spreading-to-ascending branches; sometimes the trunk will divide near the ground and its massive limbs will form a broad open crown.

## BARK

Smooth, yellow-green; older bark deeply furrowed, scaly and grey at the base.

## TWIGS

Alternate, stout, smooth, shiny, often four-sided or ridged, greenish-brown. Terminal bud sharp-pointed, about 2 cm long, chestnut or greenish-brown, smooth, shiny, very gummy, outer scales hairy at base; lateral buds similar, about 13 mm long. Leaf scars roughly elliptical, light greenish-brown; bundle scars in three

prominent groups. Lenticels common, elongated, straw-coloured.

## LEAVES

Alternate, simple, triangular, with coarsely rounded teeth, somewhat hairy, 5–10 mm long and about the same width, stalk flattened near base of leaf.

## FLOWERS

Before leaves, in drooping catkins.

## FRUIT

A capsule about 8–12 mm long, in catkins.

## OCCURRENCE

Southern Manitoba, along riverbanks.

## NOTES

One of the largest growing trees in Manitoba, cottonwood can be several metres wide.





# GREEN ASH

*Fraxinus pennsylvanica* Marsh.

Cree: Askátik

Dakota: Pse khti chan to

Michif: Li frenn vayr

Ojibwe: Sagima'kwun Aagimaak



## FORM

Medium-to-large deciduous tree with a slender trunk and spreading crown.

## BARK

Greyish-brown, furrowed into soft scaly ridges, a diamond pattern in mature bark.

## TWIGS

Opposite, stout, smooth; lenticels brown, linear, common. Terminal bud reddish-brown, about 3–8 mm long with two prominent lateral scales, not hairy; lateral buds smaller. Leaf scars horseshoe-shaped with about 18 bundle scars in a single row and same contour as leaf scar.

## LEAVES

Opposite, compound, 15–20 cm long, composed of 7–9 short-stalked, lance-shaped, coarse-toothed, leaflets, 10–15 cm long, borne in pairs.

## FLOWERS

Before or with leaves, small.

## FRUIT

Dry, single, with a narrow, elongated wing, 3–6 cm long, pointed at base.

## OCCURRENCE

Common along river banks throughout central and southern Manitoba.

## NOTES

Common as boulevard trees; Ash trees are considered at risk because of the threat of emerald ash borer.



# HACKBERRY

*Celtis occidentalis* L.

Cree: Mínisátik



## FORM

A small deciduous tree with large, bushy crown of ascending or spreading branches.

## BARK

Greyish-brown, covered with deeply furrowed, wart-like ridges when old.

## TWIGS

Alternate, rusty-brown becoming greyish-brown, slender, smooth or hairy. Buds about 6–8 mm long, hairy, light-brown, pressed against twig except for terminal bud that is at nearly right angles to the twig. Leaf scars small, oval, often raised on short stalks; bundle scars inconspicuous. Lenticels common, elongated, small, yellowish-brown.

## LEAVES

Alternate, simple, oval to lance-shaped, 6–9 cm long, 4–6 cm wide, tapered at tip, sharp-toothed to middle or below.

## FLOWERS

Before or with leaves, minute, greenish; solitary or in pairs.

## FRUIT

A berry, about 6–8 mm in diameter, orange-red becoming dark purple at maturity and containing a single hard nut.

## OCCURRENCE

Localized along the southern margin of Lake Manitoba, mainly on beaches; rare.

## NOTES

Has a strong grain and porous structure, and is used as a substitute for red oak, ash or elm in furniture making.





# HOP-HORNBEAM (IRONWOOD)

*Ostrya virginiana* (Mill.) K. Koch

Cree: Maskawatik

Ojibwe: Maananoons



## FORM

A small deciduous tree with a slender, erect trunk; crown broad, round-topped in open areas; but narrow and pyramidal in dense stands.

## BARK

Light-brown, roughened by narrow, elongated, shreddy scales which loosen at the ends.

## TWIGS

Alternate, very slender, tough, somewhat hairy, shiny, dark reddish-brown. Buds sharply pointed, chestnut-brown, about 3–4 mm long, composed of several scales with light-coloured margins. Leaf scars small, moon-shaped; bundle scars inconspicuous. Lenticels common, white, small, circular.

## LEAVES

Alternate, simple, oval, tapered at tip, finely double-toothed, thin, 7–12 cm long, finely hairy beneath.

## FLOWERS

With leaves; in greenish elongated clusters.

## FRUIT

A small greenish nut in a papery bladder, grows in dense, elongated clusters on slender stems.

## OCCURRENCE

In southeastern Manitoba in rich, moist habitats; rare.

## NOTES

This is a strong heavy wood, used for tool handles.



# LARGETOOTH ASPEN

*Populus grandidentata* Michx.

Cree: Wápasátik



## FORM

A medium-to-tall deciduous tree with moderately stout branches that form a round-topped crown.

## BARK

Smooth, greenish-grey to whitish, becoming deeply furrowed at base of old trunks.

## TWIGS

Alternate, moderately stout, stiff, somewhat hairy. Terminal bud, dull brown, finely hairy, about 7–8 mm long, pointed, lateral buds spreading away from twig. Flower buds larger. Leaf scars crescent-shaped with three groups of bundle scars. Lenticels elongated.

## LEAVES

Alternate, simple, 5–10 cm long and of about the same

width, sharp-pointed, rounded at base, very coarse-toothed with 5–15 large, unequal teeth which are often curved inward at tip; white, hairy at first but becoming hairless; on flattened stems.

## FLOWERS

Before leaves, in drooping catkins.

## FRUIT

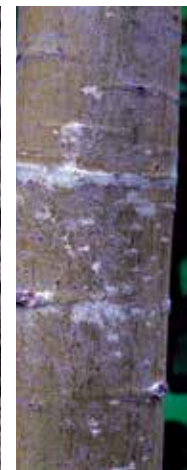
With leaves; a hairy capsule seed, 6 mm long in loose, drooping catkins, 10–12 cm long.

## OCCURRENCE

In southeastern corner of Manitoba on a variety of sites; rare.

## NOTES

Wildlife use the foliage, twigs and buds as food.





# MANITOBA MAPLE (BOX-ELDER)

*Acer negundo* L.

Cree: Sisipóskwatátik

Michif: Araab manitobah

Ojibwe: Ziizibaakwadwaatig



## FORM

Small-to-medium sized deciduous tree with spreading crown of thick limbs.

## BARK

Light brown or dark grey, furrowed into irregular flat-topped ridges.

## TWIGS

Opposite, stout, smooth, densely fuzzy near tip; green at first but becoming grey-to-black. Lenticels common, rusty-brown, elongated, often covered by fuzz near tips of current year growth. Terminal bud blunt, about 3–8 mm long, hairy; lateral buds smaller, encased by outer scale that splits at tip revealing bud. Leaf scars semi-circular, narrow, coming together on the sides of twig, forming a point; bundle scars inconspicuous.

## LEAVES

Opposite, compound, 15–38 cm long, composed of 3–5 coarse-toothed or lobed, paired, leaflets, 5–12 cm long.

## FLOWERS

Before or with leaves, in yellow-green clusters, male flowers often with conspicuous elongated red-tipped stamens.

## FRUIT

Winged, wrinkled, dry, yellowish, ascending in pairs, each 30–50 mm long.

## OCCURRENCE

Throughout central and southern Manitoba, usually in moist habitats and along stream beds.

## NOTES

This tree can be tapped to make maple syrup.



# PEACHLEAF WILLOW

*Salix amygdaloides* Anderss.

Cree: Nipisihatik

Ojibwe: Adoopiiwaatig



## FORM

A large deciduous shrub to small tree with somewhat drooping branches.

## BARK

Smooth, becoming ridged and more or less scaly, reddish-brown.

## TWIGS

Alternate, flexible, yellowish becoming darker, shiny. Lenticels few, mostly small and brown but some are larger, linear, yellowish. Buds small, dark, shiny, brown with tan base, largest along middle of twig, about 2–4 mm long, with only one scale, somewhat lop-sided. Leaf scars very small, inconspicuous, with three bundle scars.

## LEAVES

Alternate, simple, lance-shaped, 5–14 cm long and 2–5 mm wide, narrowed or rounded at base, narrowly tapered at tip, finely toothed, stem slender, green above, whitish below.

## FLOWERS

Before leaves, in catkins.

## FRUIT

A capsule in catkins on short, leafy branches.

## OCCURRENCE

Along stream beds in southern part of Manitoba; not common.

## NOTES

Willow bark contains many salicylates, such as acetylsalicylic acid, more commonly known as aspirin.



Black willow (*Salix nigra* Marsh.) and crack willow (*Salix fragilis* L.) are similar but have narrower, somewhat curved leaves up to 8–14 mm long. Black willow has conspicuous, leaf-like stipules at base of leaf stalk on young twigs; stipules are inconspicuous on crack willow.



# SHOWY MOUNTAIN ASH

*Sorbus decora* (Sarg.) Schneid.

Cree: Maskominátik

Ojibwe: Makominaatig

Ojibwe-Cree: Mahkominaahtik



## FORM

Large deciduous shrub or small tree with spreading, ascending branches; often bushy.

## BARK

Greyish-brown, thin, smooth, forming loose, papery scales on older stems or trunks.

## TWIGS

Alternate, greyish-brown, stout, smooth or with shredding cuticle; lenticels several, scattered, elongated, tan. Terminal bud about 10–14 mm long, conical, smooth, gummy, dark purplish-red: inner scales short hairy, lateral buds smaller. Leaf scars narrow, moon-shaped, dark brown with five light brown bundle scars.

## LEAVES

Alternate, compound, 20 cm long composed of 11–15 paired,

coarse-toothed, conical tipped, oblong leaflets, 3–8 cm long, 2 to 3 times as long as broad, blue-green above.

## FLOWERS

June, white, about 4–5 mm in diameter occurring in flat-topped open clusters.

## FRUIT

In August, berry 8–10 mm diameter, scarlet or vermilion with a fine powdery covering in clusters.

## OCCURRENCE

Southern half of Manitoba, except south-west, in moist habitats.

## NOTE

Although similarly shaped, the showy mountain ash is not actually an ash (*Fraxinus* spp.) tree.



American mountain ash (*Sorbus americana* Marsh.) may be found in southeastern Manitoba, but is rare. It can be distinguished from the showy mountain ash by its slender, lance-shaped leaflets that are sharply toothed from tip to base.

# TREMBLING ASPEN (WHITE POPLAR)

*Populus tremuloides* Michx.

Cree: Mitosatik

Dakota: Wakhchin chanchan

Dene: K'es

Ojibwe: Azaadiinsag



## FORM

Medium-to-tall deciduous tree with slender trunk and moderately stout, ascending branches that form an open, round-topped crown.

## BARK

Smooth, greenish-grey to whitish, becoming rough and furrowed.

## TWIGS

Alternate slender, flexible, and shiny. Lenticels generally inconspicuous, small, elongated. Terminal bud about 6–7 mm long, lustrous, usually without hairs, sharp-pointed, with several scales, slightly gummy; lateral buds smaller. Leaf scars moon-shaped, light brown, with three raised bundle scars.

## LEAVES

Alternate, simple, egg-shaped to nearly circular, abruptly

pointed, fine-toothed with numerous rounded teeth, 3–7 mm long and about the same width, on flattened stalks that are longer than the leaf blade. The trembling aspen gets its common name from its leaves, which flutter in the lightest breeze.

## FLOWERS

Before leaves, in drooping hairy catkins.

## FRUIT

With leaves, a capsule about 5–7 mm long in catkins.

## OCCURRENCE

Common throughout the forested region in moist to dry habitats.

## NOTES

The wood is often used to make oriented strand board in the Swan Valley area of Manitoba.





# WHITE BIRCH (PAPER BIRCH)

*Betula papyrifera* Marsh.

Cree: Waskwayátik

Dakota: Tanpa chan

Dene: K'ih

Ojibwe: Wiigwaasaatig

Ojibwe-Cree: Wiikwaahsahtik



## FORM

Small-to-medium sized deciduous tree or coarse shrub with ascending, spreading branches. During winter, the reddish-brown branches contrast with the white trunk of mature trees.

## BARK

Thin, smooth, at first dark but becoming creamy to pinkish-white, easily separates into papery layers.

## TWIGS

Alternate, moderately stout, hairy at first but becoming smooth, reddish-brown, shiny. Lenticels numerous, small, circular, yellowish. Terminal bud sharp-pointed, about 5-7 mm long, chestnut-brown, curved, slightly sticky and hairy; lateral buds smaller. Leaf scars very

small, moon-shaped, with three bundle scars.

## LEAVES

Alternate, simple, usually triangular, coarse double-toothed, 5-10 cm long, slender stalked, hairy beneath at least when young.

## FLOWERS

April to May, in catkins.

## FRUIT

A dry, two-winged nut, less than 15-25 mm broad in drooping cone-like catkins, 3-5 cm long.

## OCCURRENCE

In moist to dry habitats throughout the forested ecozones of Manitoba.

## NOTES

Sleds, canoes, and snowshoes can all be made of birch wood; its sap can be boiled into a syrup.



*Alaska birch* (*Betula neoalaskana* Sarg.) is similar, but has warty twigs and mature bark that does not peel as readily as white birch. Occurs throughout much of Manitoba.

# WILD PLUM

*Prunus americana* Marsh.

Cree: Sóminátik

Dakota: Kante chan

Ojibwe: Bagesaanaatig

Bagessaaniminagaawanzh



## FORM

Mostly a large deciduous shrub but occasionally tree-like.

## BARK

Smooth, grey or reddish-brown on young trees, splitting into curly scales when older.

## TWIGS

Alternate, slender, smooth, brown, with thorns. Terminal bud about 4–8 mm long, composed of several small overlapping brown scales with light coloured tips; lateral buds similar. Leaf scars broadly heart-shaped, dark brown with a few bundle scars near upper side. Lenticels yellowish, circular, of variable sizes.

## LEAVES

Alternate, simple, oval or oblong, sharp-pointed, 6–12 cm long; teeth sharp-pointed, single and double-toothed.

## FLOWERS

With or before leaves, white, about 25 mm in diameter, usually in clusters of five flowers.

## FRUIT

A berry, generally round, orange-red in colour with a single flattened stone, about 2.5 cm long, sour.

## OCCURRENCE

Southern Manitoba generally in moist habitats along river channels.

## NOTES

The fruit can be eaten raw, cooked, or dried.



*Canada plum* (*Prunus nigra* Ait.) is similar, but has rounded teeth on the leaves, white flowers that usually turn pink, and a round stone in the fruit. Occurs in southern Manitoba.



# NOTES









**Do you need more information or  
have an edit for the Field Guide?**

**Please leave us a message  
on the Provincial tree line:**

**204-945-7866**

**or**

**Send an email to:  
[treeline@gov.mb.ca](mailto:treeline@gov.mb.ca)**