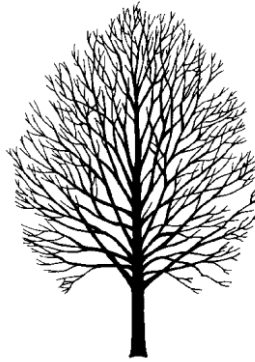


Trees in Winter Identification Guide



Characteristics to Check:

1. Silhouette: shape
2. Bark: colour and structure
3. Clues: fallen leaves, cones, and fruit on the ground

Hints:

- **Look up** for silhouette
- **Look down** for fallen leaves, cones and fruit

Note: images are mostly for mature trees—check ACER’s Treepedia (scan the QR codes provided, or click on link below) for images of young trees.

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www.acer-acre.ca

www.acer-acre.ca/treepedia

Sugar Maple *Acer saccharum*

Silhouette: Rounded pyramid

Bark: Smooth grey-brown when young becoming dark grey and deeply furrowed with flat ridges that may curl outward to one side when mature

Clues: Sharp-pointed buds

Image source:

https://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/trees/plants/sugar_maple.html



Eastern White Pine

Pinus strobus

Silhouette: Columnar with uneven lobes

Bark: Smooth, greyish-brown when young becoming dark grey and breaking into broad, scaly ridges with deep furrows when mature

Clues: Soft needles in bundles of 5, cones with 50-80 scales usually in 5 rows

Image source: <https://www.acer-acre.ca/s?Pinusstrobus>

White Spruce

Picea glauca

Silhouette: Tall pyramid

Bark: Smooth and light grey becoming ash grey with circular flat scales when mature; newly exposed bark is pinkish

Clues: 4-sided needles that are straight and stiff and have an unpleasant pungent odour when crushed

Image source: <https://www.acer-acre.ca/resources/resources-for-schools/species-id/trees/trees-white-spruce>



Eastern White Cedar *Thuja occidentalis*

Silhouette: Rounded pyramid
Bark: Reddish-brown and thin, becoming greyer and breaking into narrow, flat, straight ridges when mature
Clues: Ovoid cones, small, scaly needles on fan-shaped twigs that can turn slightly brownish in winter

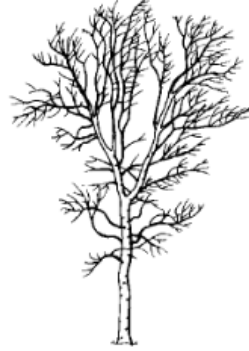
Image source:
[ACER at <https://www.acer-acre.ca/s?Thujaoccidentalis>](https://www.acer-acre.ca/s?Thujaoccidentalis)



Balsam Fir *Abies balsamea*

Silhouette: Tall, thin pyramid
Bark: Greyish and smooth becoming more brown and scaly when mature
Clues: Resin bubbles on the trunk, flat needles that are attached directly to the twig and have a strong odor when crushed

Image sources:
<https://tidcf.nrcan.gc.ca/en/trees/factsheet/80>
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/balsam-fir>
<https://www.acer-acre.ca/s?Abiesbalsamea>



Yellow (Swamp) Birch

Betula alleghaniensis

Silhouette: Irregularly rounded

Bark: Shiny reddish-brown when young becoming dull yellow and peeling when mature

Clues: Twig tastes like wintergreen

Image source:

<https://tidcf.nrcan.gc.ca/en/trees/factsheet/15>

White (Paper) Birch

Betula papyrifera

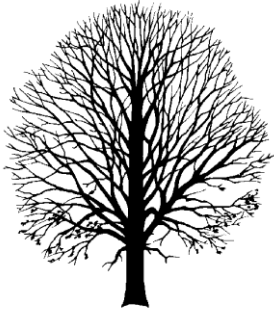
Silhouette: Irregular oval

Bark: Smooth, reddish-brown when young becoming chalky/creamy-white and peeling in thin papery layers when mature

Clues: Twig is odourless (unlike the yellow birch)

Image source:

<https://tidcf.nrcan.gc.ca/en/trees/factsheet/16>



American Beech

Fagus americana

Silhouette: Spherical

Bark: Smooth, steel/bluish-grey and thin often becoming darker and heavily mottled with age

Clues: Long, oval, toothed and pointed leaves often remain on the tree in winter, especially younger trees

Image source:

<https://www.acer-acre.ca/s?Fagusamericana>



Basswood

Tilia americana

Silhouette: Rounded pyramid

Bark: Smooth greenish-grey when young becoming dark grey-brown with deep transversely divided, flat-topped ridges when mature

Clues: bright red buds

Image source:

<https://landscapeontario.com/tilia-americana-basswood>





Bur Oak

Quercus macrocarpa

Silhouette: Rounded pyramid

Bark: Greyish-brown when young becoming darker brown and breaking into scaly ridges with deep furrows when mature

Clues: More than half of the acorn is enclosed in knobby cup with fringed rim

Image sources:

<https://tidcf.nrcan.gc.ca/en/trees/factsheet/65>
<https://www.acer-acre.ca/s?Quercusmacrocarpa>

White Oak

Quercus alba

Silhouette: Half-circle

Bark: Pale grey and smooth or slightly scaly breaking into irregular scaly plates with deep fissures when mature

Clues: Acorns are single or paired, fringed with leathery shells, and have an abrupt point at the end

Image source:

<https://www.acer-acre.ca/s?Quercusalba>