

ASH



The ash tree is a fast-growing tree that can be found throughout North America. This tree thrives in a variety of soils and climates, making it a perfect tree for almost anywhere. Ash trees grow between 13 and 24 inches every year to an eventual height of 50 to 80 feet. Ash trees also grow to be 40 to 50 feet wide. This species flowers in April-May, the male first, before appearance of the leaves; fruiting August-October, the seeds dispersed September-November. The pollen is already airborne during the 7-10 days when the female flowers are receptive. The ash tree features leaves opposite of one another. Each leaf is 8 to 15 inches long and produces five to nine leaflets. The leaves are green until autumn, when they turn a bright yellow. The white ash is perhaps most known for being used in the production of baseball bats. The strong, yet pliable wood is unlike any other type of wood available. Ash trees are also frequently used to make furniture and hockey sticks.



OAK



Oak belongs to the genus *Quercus* which comprises over 600 different species of trees. Most species of oak trees are deciduous with only a couple of evergreen forms. Oak trees live on the Northern hemisphere. Oaks have spirally arranged leaves, with lobate margins in many species; some have serrated leaves or entire leaves with smooth margins. Many deciduous species are marcescent, not dropping dead leaves until spring. In spring, a single oak tree produces both male flowers (in the form of catkins) and small female flowers. The fruit is a nut called an acorn, borne in a cup-like structure known as a cupule; each acorn contains one seed (rarely two or three) and takes 6-18 months to mature, depending on species. The live oaks are distinguished for being evergreen, but are not actually a distinct group and instead are dispersed across the genus.



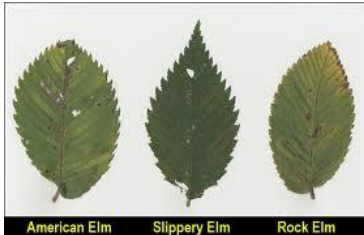
WHITE BIRCH



There are several facts to know about the white birch tree. It is usually small or medium in size, and most of these trees grow to be about 70 to 80 feet tall. The white birch tree generally lives about 140 years, which is a short lifetime for a tree. This tree has distinctive heart-shaped leaves at the ends of branches, as well as catkins, which are flowers (these can be either male or female). It is identified easily by its easily peeled white bark with distinctive horizontal stripes. The tree thrives best in cold climates, such as the northern parts of North America.



ELM



The American Elm was once one of America's most dominant trees. There are many still around, but disease has wiped out many more. Elms are large trees, reaching 100 feet tall. Their trunks can be four feet wide. The American Elm has a shallow, expansive root system that can be as little as three feet below the surface. The 6-inch leaves are green, simple and oblong-shaped. In spring, the tree develops small green flowers and small, green and round fruit. The bark is dark gray and can be scaly.



CEDAR



Red Cedar

Cedar trees are typically at least forty feet tall at full height. Some species of this tree can grow as tall as 85 feet. The Atlantic White Cedar ranges in height from 40 to 85 feet while the Eastern Red Cedar ranges only from around 40 feet to 60 feet. The Northern White Cedar falls in the middle with a height range of 40 to 70 feet. A good rule of thumb when determining height is to use yourself as a measuring stick and estimate the height of a tree based on how many of you it would take to reach the top. If you are six feet even and you come across a relatively tall tree, you may be able to identify it as a cedar if it would take at least six of you to reach the top of the tree (around forty feet). The needles of cedar trees are scaly and



they tend to overlap each other. Often, you can smell the cedar scent coming from the needles; sometimes the fragrance is produced when the needles are crushed together. Cedar needles are not like pine needles (which are longer and almost needle-like). Instead, the needles on a cedar tree are soft and almost fern-like.

Cottonwood Tree



Willows have male and female flowers on different trees. They bloom in March and April. They are mainly insect pollinated, but pollen can also be transferred by wind. It is not a strong allergen. Black willow is common throughout the eastern states along streams and lakes, and its catkins open after the narrow, lance-shaped leaves are fully extended. The poplars, aspens, and cottonwoods are completely wind-pollinated. The male and female flowers are on separate trees.