

## LEAF KEY

**How To Use A Leaf Key:** When you look at the key below you will see two different descriptive statements under the same numerical heading but with different letters.

For example: 1a. Leaves needlelike or scalelike.....2  
 1b. Leaves not at all needlelike or scalelike.....3

You are to choose one of these statements that best applies to the leaf you are trying to identify. The number to the right of the statement you have chosen indicates the next set of numerical headings you will consider for your next choice. Continue in this manner until your choice ends up with the name of the tree your leaf came from.

- 1a. Leaves needlelike or scalelike.....2  
or
- 1b. Leaves not at all needlelike or scalelike..... 3
- 2a. Leaves small, scalelike, close together and overlapping.....Red Cedar  
or
- 2b. Leaves not scalelike, long and narrow, needlelike in twos  
united at the base to form bundles.....Scotch Pine
- 3a. Leaves opposite.....4  
or
- 3b. Leaves alternate..... 5
- 4a. Leaves simple, deeply 5 lobed like fingers on a hand.....Silver Maple  
or
- 4b. Leaves compound, once pinnately compound.....Green Ash
- 5a. Leaves simple.....6  
or
- 5b. Leaves compound.....12
- 6a. Leaves lobed (when the spaces between the teeth run 1/4 or  
more to the center of the leaf).....7  
or
- 6b Leaves unlobed.....8
- 7a. Outline of leaf elliptical or broadest above the middle.....Bur Oak  
or
- 7b. Outline of leaf circular or nearly so.....Sycamore
- 8a. Leaf margin smooth not toothed in any way.....9  
or
- 8b. Leaf margin toothed (serrate).....10
- 9a. Leaves 2 to 5 inches long, 1 to 3 inches wide, ovate-lance shaped  
with narrow pointed tip.....Osage Orange  
or
- 9b. Leaves are heart or kidney shaped.....Redbud
- 10a. Leaf margin with sharp double teeth, leaf shape elliptical,  
leaf distinctly lopsided at base.....American Elm  
or
- 10b. Leaf margin with single teeth, either finely toothed or rounded.....11
- 11a. Leaf margin has rounded teeth, leaf is triangular in outline.....Cottonwood  
or
- 11b. Leaf margin is finely toothed, leaf is lance shaped in outline.....Black Willow
- 12a. Leaf twice compound.....Honeylocust  
or
- 12b. Leaf once compound.....Black Walnut