

# Identifying Deciduous Trees

Deciduous trees, otherwise known as broad-leaved or hardwoods, lose their leaves in the winter. The word deciduous has a Latin meaning of 'falling off.'



**You can identify a deciduous tree by looking at its branches and leaves!**

First, look at the arrangement of branches on the tree to see if the branch arrangement is opposite or alternate:

1. Trees with **opposite** branch arrangement
  - Leaves and branches grow directly across from each other
  - Maples and ashes
2. Trees with **alternate** branch arrangement
  - Leaves and branches are staggered
  - Most other deciduous trees



# Trees with Opposite Branching

Second, look at the leaves on the tree to determine its species!



## Sugar Maple

- Simple leaves, 8-20cm long
- 5 lobes and long blunt pointed tips
- Flowers appear a week before Red maple
- Yellow, orange, and red leaves in autumn



## Red Maple

- Simple leaves, 5-15cm long
- 3-5 lobes with sharp, irregular teeth
- Often has a red leaf stem
- Whitened underneath
- Bright red leaves in autumn



## White Ash

- Compound leaves with 5-9 leaflets (usually 7)
- Oval-shaped leaflets that gradually taper at the end
- Bronze-purple in autumn
- One of the first trees to drop its leaves in the autumn

# Trees with Alternate Branching



## Basswood

- Simple, single-toothed leaf
- Leaf heart shaped with one side lower than the other (lopsided)
- 12-15cm long



## Trembling Aspen

- Simple, finely toothed leaf
- Triangular or oval shaped with a short and sharp tip
- "Trembles" in the breeze due to its long, flat stem



## White Birch

- Simple leaf, 5-10cm long
- Double-toothed edges
- 9 veins or less ending in a large tooth
- White bark on tree trunk



## White Elm

- Simple leaf, 10-15cm long
- Double-toothed edges
- Lopsided leaves with rough underside
- 15-20 veins per side

# Trees with Alternate Branching



## Red Oak

- Simple leaf, 10-20cm long
- 7-9 lobes, each lobe tapering into a pointed tip and separated by rounded notches



## White Oak

- Simple leaf, 10-20 cm long,
- Widest in the middle
- 7-9 lobes, lobes rounded and separated by deep cut notches pale
- Underneath reddish purple in autumn



## Bur Oak

- Simple leaf, 15-30cm long
- First couple lobes are the smallest
- 7-9 rounded lobes with deep notches
- Pale and hairy underneath