

TREE IDENTIFICATION TERMS

CONIFER: A tree that bears cones and has needles.



BUNDLE: Group of conifer needles held together at the base by a small papery wrap called a fascicle.

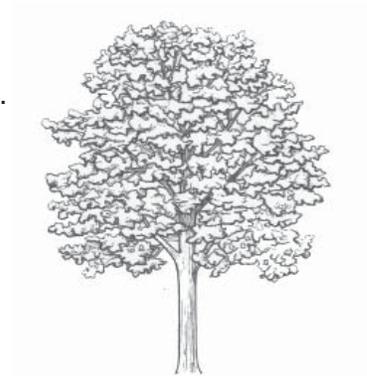


SCALY: Conifer needles that are flat and overlapping, like fish scales.

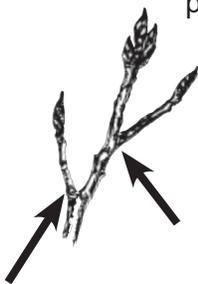


BROADLEAF*: A tree that has broad leaves rather than needles.

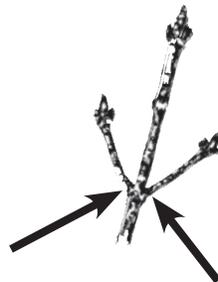
*Note: We use “broadleaf” instead of “deciduous.” A deciduous tree loses all its leaves for part of the year. A tamarack is a conifer (has cones and needles) that loses its needles in the fall (is deciduous).



ALTERNATE BRANCHING: A branching pattern where side branches and leaves do not grow directly across from each other.



OPPOSITE BRANCHING: A branching pattern where side branches and leaves, grow directly across the stem from each other.



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LEAF MARGIN: The outer edge of a leaf.

ENTIRE: A type of leaf margin that is smooth and has no wavy or pointed edges.

TOOTHED: A type of leaf margin that has small points along it (teeth).

SINUS: The space between lobes on a leaf.

Fine-toothed means that the teeth are small.

Course-toothed means that the teeth are large.

LOBE: A projection that extends outward from the center of the leaf.

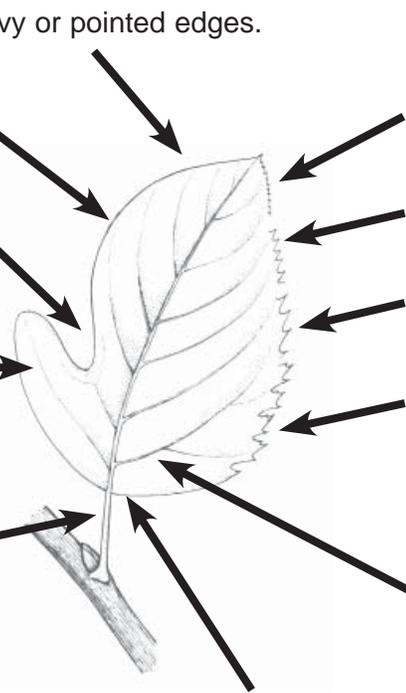
Single-toothed means that all the teeth are about the same size.

Double-toothed means that on each tooth there is a smaller tooth.

PETIOLE: The stalk that supports a leaf and attaches the leaf to the twig. They can be round, flat, or square.

VEINS: Distinct lines of tissue that form the framework of a leaf. Used for food and water transport.

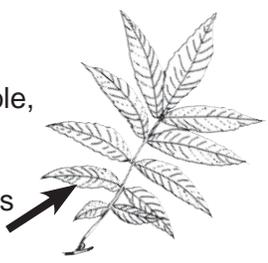
LEAF BASE: The lower edge of a leaf.



COMPOUND LEAF: A type of leaf that has many smaller leaflets that attach to its petiole, which is attached to a twig.

SIMPLE LEAF: A type of leaf that has one blade attached to a twig by a petiole.

LEAFLET: A small leaf that is part of a compound leaf.



LEAF SCAR: The mark left behind on a twig when a leaf falls from a tree.

NOTE: The axillary bud is just above the leaf petiole or leaf scar on the twig. Look for this bud to help you decide if it is a simple or compound leaf. Leaflets don't have this bud at their base.

