

Remember the trees with opposite leaves:

DAMPER

D is for DOGWOOD

A is for ASH

M is for MAPLE

P is for PRIVET

E is for ELBOWBUSH*

R is for RUSTY BLACKHAW

(*and ELDERBERRY)

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GROUP B COMPOUND LEAVES, ALTERNATELY ATTACHED



BLACK WALNUT 15-23 leaflets, last leaflet often small or missing

***CHINABERRY** twice-compound leaves, leaflets coarsely toothed or lobed



***CHINESE PISTACHE** leaves resemble soapberry, but have strong, peppery scent when crushed

EVE'S NECKLACE 9-15 oval leaflets, fruit hanging in "string of beads"



HERCULES CLUB bark has corky outgrowths tipped with short thorns, leaflets often have prickles

HONEYLOCUST large thorns on thorns; leaves once or twice compound; fruit a dark brown pod, 10-18" long



MESQUITE compound leaf branches into two parts; twigs and branches armed with stout, straight thorns up to 2" long.

PECAN 11-17 slightly curved leaflets with small teeth; last pair of leaflets is largest; terminal leaf present



SOAPBERRY 7-19 leaflets with smooth margins and pointed tip; mature berries translucent

SUMAC Smooth Sumac has a smooth rachis and toothed leaflets; Shining Sumac and Flameleaf Sumac both have a winged rachis and smooth margins on leaflets

Group C SIMPLE LEAVES, OPPOSITELY ATTACHED



ELBOWBUSH shrub; leaves minutely toothed; often first bushes to flower in the spring. Opposite branching, twigs grow at 90° angle, creating the "elbow"

PRIVET (Ligustrum) very invasive
***CHINESE PRIVET** rounded diamond or egg-shaped leaves; has leaf stem
***GLOSSY PRIVET** large glossy leaves; can grow quite large, aka: "TREE PRIVET"
***QUOHOU PRIVET** leaves taper to the twig; almost no leaf stem



ROUGH-LEAF DOGWOOD reddish twigs; smooth leaf margins; veins curve towards tip; often considered a shrub

RUSTY BLACKHAW shiny leaves with fine teeth; on a reddish petiole (leaf stem)

GROUP D COMPOUND LEAVES, OPPOSITELY ATTACHED

ASH FAMILY: female trees have winged seeds called "samaras"

GREEN ASH samara is 1.5-2" long, needle-like and flat; leaves yellow-green on the back; leaf scar is a semi-circle

TEXAS ASH samara about 1" long, rounded; seed ends where wing begins, leaves whitish on the back; leaf scar is a "smile"

WHITE ASH samara like Texas Ash, but about 2" long; leaf scar like a horseshoe; these grow mostly east of Collin / Dallas Counties

ELDERBERRY shrub; leaves 5-9" long, toothed leaflets, pinnately compound

MAPLE FAMILY
BOXELDER MAPLE 3-5 leaflets with irregular lobes and/or teeth; fruit is a double samara

Trees of North Texas

KEY TO THE BROAD-LEAVED TREES:

1 Are the leaves SIMPLE or COMPOUND?
A leaf is SIMPLE if the blade is a single unit, and COMPOUND if it is made up of two or more discrete leaflets. HINT: Each leaf, whether simple or compound, has a **bud at its base** (on the twig). There is no bud at the base of a leaflet.

- SIMPLE: Go to **2**
- COMPOUND: Go to **3**

2 How are the SIMPLE leaves attached?

• ALTERNATELY: **GROUP A**
Simple leaves, alternately attached

• OPPOSITELY: **GROUP C**
Simple leaves, oppositely attached

3 How are the COMPOUND leaves attached?

• ALTERNATELY: **GROUP B**
Compound, alternately attached

• OPPOSITELY: **GROUP D**
Compound, oppositely attached

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GROUP A
SIMPLE LEAVES,
ALTERNATELY ATTACHED



ELM / HACKBERRY FAMILY

Key identifier: Asymmetrical leaf base, elms have pinnate (like a feather) venation and double-toothed margins

SUGAR-HACKBERRY corky bark; few or no teeth; leaves have 3 basal veins rather than pinnate venation



AMERICAN ELM large leaves with few forked secondary veins; grows in a beautiful vase shape; a bark flake will show alternating brown and cream-colored layers; flowers and fruits appear in the spring before leaves

CEDAR ELM small, stiff leaves with a rough texture; tips are broadly rounded; often has corky wings on branches; only native elm that flowers/fruits in the fall



***CHINESE ELM (LACEBARK ELM)** peeling bark with orange-colored bark underneath; small, smooth leaves; flowers/fruits in the fall

SLIPPERY ELM large leaves with numerous forked secondary veins; very rough on both surfaces; flowers and fruits appear in the spring before leaves



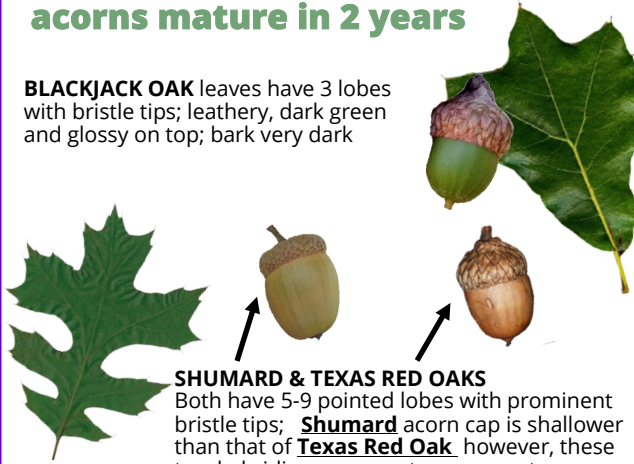
WINGED ELM small leaves with pointed tips; flowers/seeds in the spring; often has corky wings on branches; prefers sandy soil; flowers and fruits appear in the spring before leaves

*** indicates introduced species**

OAKS Key identifier: acorns, buds crowded at tip of twig

RED OAKS: leaves with bristle tips; acorns mature in 2 years

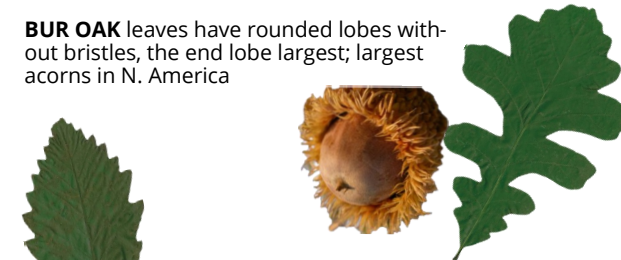
BLACKJACK OAK leaves have 3 lobes with bristle tips; leathery, dark green and glossy on top; bark very dark



SHUMARD & TEXAS RED OAKS Both have 5-9 pointed lobes with prominent bristle tips; **Shumard** acorn cap is shallower than that of **Texas Red Oak** however, these two hybridize, so many trees are not identifiable to species

WHITE OAKS: leaves without bristle tips; acorns mature in 1 year

BUR OAK leaves have rounded lobes without bristles, the end lobe largest; largest acorns in N. America



CHINKAPIN OAK oval-shaped leaf; parallel veins, each ending in a curved, sharp tooth, but not a bristle



LIVE OAK small, glossy, oblong leaf, often retained until spring; acorn a narrow, oblong shape, turning dark brown when mature



POST OAK thick, leathery leaves; shape is very variable, but often leaves have five rounded lobes, forming a "Maltese Cross" shape

DISTINCTIVE LEAF SHAPE

BLACK WILLOW occurs in wet areas; bark is deeply furrowed and shaggy; leaves are long and narrow



COTTONWOOD triangular leaf with a long, flat petiole; deeply furrowed bark; typically found near water

HAWTHORN leaf has double-toothed margin, sometimes lobed; mature bark is scaly gray with reddish patches; branches are usually thorny



MULBERRY leaf shape very variable, but often some are mitten shaped; berry resembles a long blackberry; leaves have milky sap

REDBUD produces magenta flowers in the spring before leaves appear; leaves are heart shaped; fruit is a brownish peapod



SWEET GUM star-shaped leaf and spiny fruit; native range is east of nTX, but frequently cultivated here



SYCAMORE leaf has shallow, pointed lobes; peeling outer bark reveals white inner bark



POTENTIALLY TRICKY ID

CAROLINA BUCKTHORN smooth with noticeably parallel secondary veins; small, understory tree



GUM BUMELIA (aka CHITTAMWOOD) teardrop-shaped leaves often grow in clusters; twigs usually armed with sharp spines; new growth is quite fuzzy, and leaves are fuzzy on the back



MEXICAN PLUM leaf has double row of fine teeth and often appears wilted; green to red fruit; very dark bark is smooth when young, quite scaly with age; thorns on twigs



OSAGE-ORANGE (aka: BOIS D' ARC) has orange colored wood and roots; thorns on branches; leaves produce milky sap; leaf front and back are almost the same color; fruit often known as "horse apples"



PERSIMMON leaf with pointed tip and smooth margins; back of leaf very light colored; bark very dark and deeply furrowed into small squares when mature



POSSUMHAW HOLLY (deciduous holly) leaf typically 1 1/2 - 4 inches long; loses its leaves in the winter



YAUPON HOLLY thick, smooth, shiny leaf with narrow, rounded teeth and rounded tip; leaf < 1 1/2 inches long; does not lose leaves in the winter

