



SPEAK FOR  
THE TREES  
Boston

# Speak for the Trees

## Tree ID Guide

### EXAMPLE BOX

**Common Name**

Scientific Name

Marks top  
10

Picture of  
Leaf

Picture  
of Seed

Distinguishing  
Attributes

Leaf Size

Leaf Position

### Instructions

- Look at the leaves on the tree you are trying to identify and match them to a leaf on this sheet
- To double check, compare the rest of the attributes in the box
- If all the attributes are the same then you have identified the tree!
- If attributes are not the same, look at other boxes to find one that better describes the tree you are looking at
- If you are still unsure, have a member of SFTT follow up



### Norway Maple

*Acer platanoides*



milky substance  
if petiole is  
broken

3 - 6" opposite

### Red Maple

*Acer rubrum*



3 or 5 irregularly  
toothed lobes, red  
petiole; many varieties!

3 - 4" opposite

### Sugar Maple

*Acer saccharum*



Usually 5 lightly  
coarsely toothed lobes

4 - 6" opposite

### Hedge Maple

*Acer campestre*



Backside of leaf  
fuzzy and white

5 - 7" opposite

### Silver Maple

*Acer saccharinum*

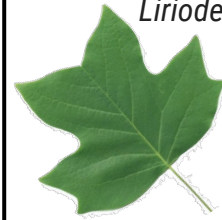


5 very deep lobes,  
silvery underside

4 - 6" opposite

### Tulip Poplar

*Liriodendron tulipifera*



No middle lobe, leaves  
bright yellow in fall

3 - 6" alternate

### London Planetree

*Platanus x acerifolia*



Distinct  
flaking  
bark

5 - 10" alternate

### Sweetgum

*Liquidambar styraciflua*



5 or 7 lobes, toothed  
along margins

3 - 7" alternate

### Ginkgo

*Ginkgo biloba*



Distinct fan-shaped  
leaves, only females  
have fruits

3 - 4" alternate



### Northern Red Oak

*Quercus rubra*



7-11 waxy  
spine-tipped  
lobes

5 - 9" alternate

### Swamp White Oak

*Quercus bicolor*



leaves have a leathery  
texture and white  
backside

3 - 7" alternate

### Pin Oak

*Quercus palustris*



Lobes  
separated by  
deep sinuses

3 - 5" alternate



### Crabapple

*Malus*



Leaves slightly ridged on edges; apple size and color vary

3" alternate

### Cherry

*Prunus*



Leaves in many colors w/ small nectar glands; bark w/ distinctive horizontal stripes

2 - 4" alternate

### Black Tupelo

*Nyssa sylvatica*



Glossy leaves, bright red in fall; small black fruit

3 - 6" alternate



### Honey Locust

*Gleditsia triacanthos*



Even leaves, small and wispy; long fruit pods

4 - 8" alternate

### Green Ash

*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*



Lance shaped leaflets in 5s or 7s

8 - 12" opposite

### Japanese Pagoda

*Styphnolobium japonicum*



Oval leaves; larger than honeylocust

6 - 10" alternate

### Elm

*Ulmus*



Rough leaf, uneven at base

3 - 5" alternate



### Japanese Zelkova

*Zelkova serrata*



slightly rough leaf texture, even at base; seeds at base of leaf

2 - 5" alternate

### Gallery Pear

*Pyrus calleryana*



waxy leaf; fruit is brown in fall

1 - 3" alternate



### Little Leaf Linden

*Tilia cordata*



Leaves a bit rough; heart shaped

2 - 4" alternate

### Silver Linden

*Tilia tomentosa*



Leaves similar to Little Leaf, but silver on back

4 - 8" alternate

### American Linden

*Tilia americana*



Leaves larger than little-leaf linden

4 - 10" alternate

### Japanese Tree Lilac

*Syringa reticulata*



white blooms with strong smell in spring - summer

3 - 4" opposite

### Remember....

- 1) Pay attention to alternate vs. opposite
- 2) Leaf size matters!
- 3) Not all street trees are listed here.

### Leaf Shapes



Hand



Teardrop



Oak



Compound



Football



Uneven

Go to [opentreemap.org/boston](http://opentreemap.org/boston) to see the progress of our tree inventory

Sign up for our newsletter at [treeboston.org](http://treeboston.org) to learn more about our programs and volunteer opportunities