



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

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Sign up for our newsletter at treeboston.org to learn more about our programs and volunteer opportunities