



SPEAK FOR
THE TREES
Boston

Speak for the Trees

Tree ID Guide for Boston street trees

EXAMPLE BOX

Common Name

Scientific Name

Marks top 10

Picture of Leaf

Picture of Seed

Distinguishing Attributes

Leaf Size

Leaf Position

Some Benefits of Trees

Did you know that trees...?

- Cool neighborhoods
- Reduce air pollution
- Filter rainwater
- Lower blood pressure
- Absorb carbon
- Reduce heating and cooling bills

Activities for Home

Take a crayon and a piece of paper, put the leaf under the paper and rub the crayon on the paper. You get a leaf image!

Get your neighbors to note your trees by writing the tree species name in chalk on the sidewalk.



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

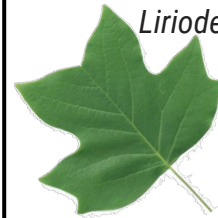


5 very deep lobes, silvery underside

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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