# Tree ID Guide for Boston street trees

## 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.

## Tree Species

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Picture of Leaf</th>
<th>Picture of Seed</th>
<th>Leaf Size</th>
<th>Leaf Position</th>
<th>Distinct Attributes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Norway Maple</strong></td>
<td>Acer platanoides</td>
<td><img src="image1" alt="Norway Maple Leaf" /></td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Norway Maple Seed" /></td>
<td>3 - 6”</td>
<td>opposite</td>
<td>milky substance if petiole is broken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Red Maple</strong></td>
<td>Acer rubrum</td>
<td><img src="image3" alt="Red Maple Leaf" /></td>
<td><img src="image4" alt="Red Maple Seed" /></td>
<td>3 - 4”</td>
<td>opposite</td>
<td>3 or 5 irregularly toothed lobes, red petiole; many varieties!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sugar Maple</strong></td>
<td>Acer saccharum</td>
<td><img src="image5" alt="Sugar Maple Leaf" /></td>
<td><img src="image6" alt="Sugar Maple Seed" /></td>
<td>4 - 6”</td>
<td>opposite</td>
<td>Usually 5 lightly coarsely toothed lobes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hedge Maple</strong></td>
<td>Acer campestre</td>
<td><img src="image7" alt="Hedge Maple Leaf" /></td>
<td><img src="image8" alt="Hedge Maple Seed" /></td>
<td>5 - 7”</td>
<td>opposite</td>
<td>Backside of leaf fuzzy and white</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Silver Maple</strong></td>
<td>Acer saccharinum</td>
<td><img src="image9" alt="Silver Maple Leaf" /></td>
<td><img src="image10" alt="Silver Maple Seed" /></td>
<td>4 - 6”</td>
<td>opposite</td>
<td>5 very deep lobes, silvery underside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tulip Poplar</strong></td>
<td>Liriodendron tulipifera</td>
<td><img src="image11" alt="Tulip Poplar Leaf" /></td>
<td><img src="image12" alt="Tulip Poplar Seed" /></td>
<td>3 - 6”</td>
<td>alternate</td>
<td>No middle lobe, leaves bright yellow in fall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>London Planetree</strong></td>
<td>Platanus x acerifolia</td>
<td><img src="image13" alt="London Planetree Leaf" /></td>
<td><img src="image14" alt="London Planetree Seed" /></td>
<td>5 - 10”</td>
<td>alternate</td>
<td>Distinct flaking bark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sweetgum</strong></td>
<td>Liquidambar styraciflua</td>
<td><img src="image15" alt="Sweetgum Leaf" /></td>
<td><img src="image16" alt="Sweetgum Seed" /></td>
<td>3 - 7”</td>
<td>alternate</td>
<td>5 or 7 lobes, toothed along margins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ginkgo</strong></td>
<td>Ginkgo biloba</td>
<td><img src="image17" alt="Ginkgo Leaf" /></td>
<td><img src="image18" alt="Ginkgo Seed" /></td>
<td>3 - 4”</td>
<td>alternate</td>
<td>Distinct fan-shaped leaves, only females have fruits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Northern Red Oak</strong></td>
<td>Quercus rubra</td>
<td><img src="image19" alt="Northern Red Oak Leaf" /></td>
<td><img src="image20" alt="Northern Red Oak Seed" /></td>
<td>5 - 9”</td>
<td>alternate</td>
<td>7-11 waxy spine-tipped lobes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Swamp White Oak</strong></td>
<td>Quercus bicolor</td>
<td><img src="image21" alt="Swamp White Oak Leaf" /></td>
<td><img src="image22" alt="Swamp White Oak Seed" /></td>
<td>3 - 7”</td>
<td>alternate</td>
<td>leaves have a leathery texture and white backside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pin Oak</strong></td>
<td>Quercus palustris</td>
<td><img src="image23" alt="Pin Oak Leaf" /></td>
<td><img src="image24" alt="Pin Oak Seed" /></td>
<td>3 - 5”</td>
<td>alternate</td>
<td>Lobes separated by deep sinuses</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

Callery 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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