

# Leaf Key for Hardwood Trees of the Acadian (Wabanaki) Forest

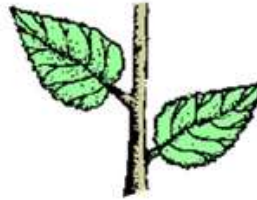
<b>1. Leaves opposite</b> .....	<b>2</b>
2. Leaf simple.....	3
2. Leaf compound.....	6
3. Five distinct lobes, leaf edge wavy, leaf sinuses “u-shaped” .....	<u>Sugar maple</u>
3. Three to five lobes, leaf edge toothed.....	4
4. Underside of leaf not silvery, leaf edge double toothed.....	<u>Striped maple</u>
4. Underside of leaf silvery.....	5
5. Leaf sinuses deeply lobed and “u”-shaped.....	<u>Silver maple</u>
5. Leaf sinuses notched “v-shaped” .....	<u>Red maple</u>
6. Leaf compound.....	7
7. 5-9 leaflets, leaflets stalked, egg-shaped to lance-shaped leaflets, leaf edge smooth or wavy.....	<u>White ash</u>
7. 7-11 leaflets, leaflets not stalked, finely and sharply toothed leaf edge.....	<u>Black ash</u>
7. 5-9 leaflets on a hairy central stalk, hairy underneath, leaf edge smooth towards base of leaf and toothed towards tip .....	<u>Green ash</u>
<b>1. Leaves not opposite</b> .....	<b>8</b>
8. Leaf compound, 11 to 17 finely toothed leaflets.....	<u>Butternut</u>
8. Leaf simple.....	9
9. Leaf edge double toothed.....	10
9. Leaf edge not double toothed.....	11
10. Leaf shape triangular.....	<u>Gray birch</u>
10. Leaf shape not triangular.....	12
12. Underside of leaf rough, leaf base asymmetrical.....	<u>White elm</u>
12. Underside of leaf not rough but may be hairy.....	13
13. 7-9 veins, leaf edges coarsely double toothed except near stem.....	<u>White birch</u>
13. 9-13 veins, leaf edges coarsely double toothed almost to stem.....	<u>Yellow birch</u>
13. Leaf stem short, finely double toothed, leaf feels thin.....	<u>Ironwood</u>
11. Leaf stem (petiole) flat.....	14
11. Leaf stem (petiole) not flat.....	15
14. Large teeth.....	<u>Largetooth aspen</u>
14. Small teeth.....	<u>Trembling aspen</u>
15. Leaf lobed.....	16
15. Leaf not lobed.....	17
16. Several pointed teeth on each lobe.....	<u>Red oak</u>
16. Lobes rounded (not pointed).....	<u>Bur oak</u>
17. Leaf edge coarsely toothed.....	<u>American beech</u>
17. Leaf edge fine toothed.....	18
18. Leaf heart-shaped.....	<u>Basswood</u>
18. Leaf egg-shaped, dark green, shiny, rusty blotches on underside of leaf.....	<u>Balsam poplar</u>



Simple leaf



Compound leaf



Leaves alternate



Leaves opposite

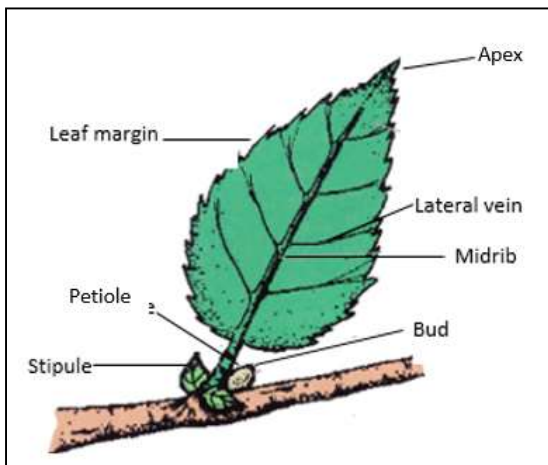
Simple leaf: A single blade attached to the stem by a petiole (birches, poplars)

Compound leaf: Leaf composed of several leaflets attached to the stem by a petiole (ashes)

Leaves alternate: Arranged in staggered fashion along stem (birches)

Leaves opposite: Pair of leaves arranged across from each other on stem (maples)

### PARTS OF A LEAF



### LEAF FORMS



Oval



Lanceolate



Cordate

Ovate : Leaf is broadest below the middle and about 2x as long as the width (egg-shaped)

Lanceolate: leaf is 3x or more longer than width and broadest below the middle

Cordate: Heart-shaped

### LEAF MARGINS



Entire



Crenate



Dentate



Doubly serrate



Incised



Lobed

Entire: leaf edge is smooth

Crenate: leaf edge has blunt, rounded teeth

Dentate: leaf has triangular or tooth-like edges

Doubly serrate: edges with saw like teeth that have even smaller teeth within the larger ones

Incised: leaf margins have deep, irregular teeth

Lobed: leaf edges are deep and rounded