

School Trail ~ Native Trees & Shrubs of Virginia

Please return this information sheet to a guide box at either end of the trail.

Trees and shrubs are described here from the junction of the School and Red trails to the junction of the School and Paved trails.



To learn more:

- Visit the School Trail often, in every season.
- Spend time with each tree or shrub, maybe with just a few on each visit. Use your different senses.
- What do the leaves look like? Arrangement of leaves along the branch? Buds? The bark?
- How about the edges of the leaves? Smooth curved line? Toothed? Wavy? Lobed? Pointed?
- Attend an Ivy Creek Foundation program about trees or shrubs.
- Look for a tree or shrub identification guide such as *Common Native Trees of Virginia* or *Common Native Shrubs and Woody Vines of Virginia*, both published by the Virginia Department of Forestry.

American Beech -- Leaf edges coarsely toothed. Dry leaves persist through winter. Winter buds long, slender, pointed. Fruits tough, triangle shaped, covered by tough prickly husk.



Northern Red Oak -- Look high in an old tree for flat plates and ridges on bark that remind some people of ski trails on a mountain.



Scarlet Oak -- Leaves have deep sinuses between bristle-tipped lobes. On old trees look for rough bark & small dead branches that linger on the trunk. Base of trunk may be swollen.



Southern Red Oak -- Leaves may have narrow lobes & be bell-shaped where they attach to the branch. Bark is furrowed. Compare it to Black Oak bark elsewhere on the trail.



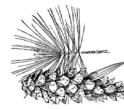
American Holly -- Leaves thick, leathery, shiny, with widely spaced sharp spines. Evergreen.



Virginia Pine -- Leaves short slightly twisted needles, in bundles of two. Bark can be shaggy or flaky.



White Pine -- Leaves long soft flexible needles, in bundles of five.



White Oak -- Bark on old trees with shaggy loose plates; bark light ashy gray.



Black Oak -- Bark thick, rough, deeply furrowed vertically with horizontal breaks.



American Beech -- Bark light gray, relatively smooth. Reminds some people of elephant skin. How does Beech bark compare to bark of nearby Red Maple? How can you tell these two trees apart?



Red Maple -- Bark gray, fairly smooth. Look at leaves, buds, branching pattern to distinguish this tree from American Beech.



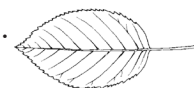
Yellow-Poplar -- Also called Tuliptree. Tall straight trunk. Leaf looks like tulip flower. In late spring, look for yellow & orange flowers in canopy or on the ground. Winter tree holds onto seed pods.



Sweet Birch -- Bark on young tree thin with vertical ridges, gray to nearly black. Leaves doubly toothed.

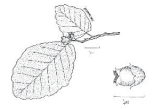


Downy Serviceberry -- Twigs thin with pointed winter buds. Leaves finely toothed.



Footbridge

Common Witchhazel -- Winter buds are stalked & furry; they are said to look like a deer's foot. Look for small yellow or gold flowers in winter.



Blackgum -- Bark on older trees is thick, dark gray, broken up into rectangular blocks. Winter buds are sharply pointed. Branches stick out straight from the trunk.



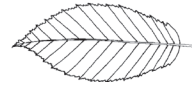
Flowering Dogwood -- Thin bark on older trees is broken up into small scaly blocks.



Spicebush -- Bark speckled with raised dots. Look for small round buds along twigs in winter.



American Hornbeam -- Can you guess why one common name for this tree is "musclewood"?



Pawpaw -- In winter look for "naked" buds consisting of tiny curled up leaves. Be gentle if you touch them. In winter you may also see small fuzzy round flower buds along twigs.



Arrowwood -- New twigs tend to grow very straight (arrow straight). Buds & new twigs are covered with velvety hairs.



Side delivery hay rake -- To learn more visit the barn.

Mockernut Hickory -- Can you tell the Mockernut and Red Hickories apart by their bark? Can you find other trees nearby that might also be hickories?



Red Hickory -- Hickory nuts are good clues for telling the trees apart, but squirrels love to eat them before they drop to the ground.



Blackhaw -- Older bark at bottom of the tree is very different from newer bark farther up. This is true of many tree and shrub species.



Eastern Redcedar -- Young leaves are prickly scales. Older leaves are more scale-like & lie flat along twig. Older bark peels off in shreds.

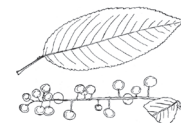


Carolina Buckthorn -- Thin bark with little bumps you can feel. In winter, look for "naked" buds at the ends of very thin twigs. The buds are tiny leaves all curled up ready to grow in spring.



Buckets and barrels from farm days -- To learn more visit the barn.

Black Cherry -- Bark on young trees satiny smooth. Bark on older trees curls up, looks like burnt potato chips.



Hackberry -- Bark on older trees rough with large wart-like bumps.



White Ash -- Bark on older trees has thick ridges that criss-cross to form deep diamonds.



Black Walnut -- Bark is very thick with deep, squared-off or criss-crossing ridges.



American Chestnut -- Once one of the most common hardwood trees in eastern US. In early 1900s the chestnut blight fungus spread from tree to tree and killed most of the trees. Today scientists are trying to grow chestnuts that can resist the fungus. The trees at ICF are in cages to protect them from rabbits and deer, who might nibble on their bark and kill them.



Eastern Redbud -- Leaves heart-shaped. Flowers pinkish-purple. Fruit long flat pod. Bark on older wood breaks up into thin gray plates revealing tan wood beneath outer bark.



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