

Chicago, Illinois, USA Common TREES of the Chicago Region

Melissa Custic and Iza Redlinski

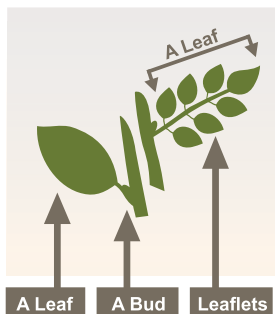


Photos: Jim Morefield, Martin LaBar, Gary Fewless, Dan Mullen, Kerry Woods, John Hagstrom and Andrey Zharkikh, The Morton Arboretum. Designed by: Alicia Diaz, Field Museum. Produced by: Melissa Custic [mcustic@mortonarb.org], Iza Redlinski, Alicia Diaz, Tyana Wachter, and Nigel Pitman. Support from the Morton Arboretum and the Keller Science Action Center of the Field Museum. ©The Field Museum, Chicago Region Trees Initiative and The Morton Arboretum.



© Melissa Custic (2020) CC BY-NC 4.0. Licensed works are free to use/share/remix with attribution, but does not permit commercial use of the original work.

[fieldguides.fieldmuseum.org] 1247 version 1 8/2020



Learn to know the trees around you, in your yard, in the park, and along the street. This guide will help you identify many of the tree species that are most common in Chicago and its suburbs, both native and non-native. Start by observing a few important characteristics.

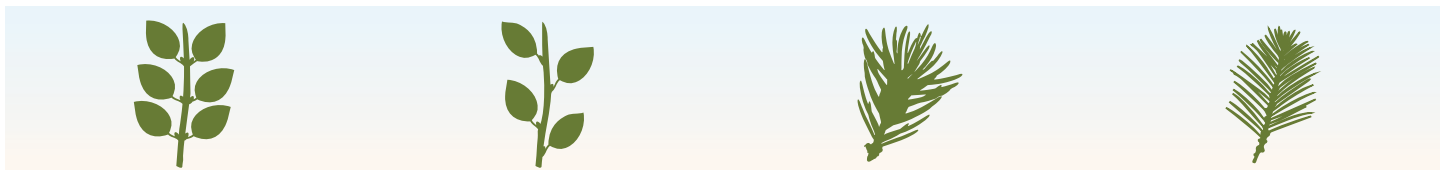
Step 1. Determine whether your tree is deciduous (drops its leaves in the fall) or evergreen (keeps leaves on its branches year round).

Step 2. Look at the way the leaves are arranged on each branch. If the leaves are attached to the stem in pairs (See F. 1), their arrangement is opposite. If the leaves are staggered along the stem (See F. 2), their arrangement is alternate.

Step 3. Find a leaf bud (See F. 5). Leaf buds help you identify whether you are looking at simple or compound leaves. Some leaves are simple, meaning the leaf consists of a single complete shape (See F. 5). Some leaves are compound, meaning the leaf consists of several leaf-like shapes, called leaflets, joined together (See F. 5, F. 6). A leaf bud only grows at the base of true leaves, so you'll be able to tell whether you're looking at leaves or leaflets.

Step 4. Based on what you've observed, find the appropriate section and find your tree!

This guide shows the most common trees in the Chicago Region, but there are nearly 200 tree species that can thrive here. When deciding which tree to plant in your site, check The Morton Arboretum's online Tree Selector Tool at mortonarb.org/tree-selector



F.1 Simple Opposite Leaves F.2 Simple Alternate Leaves F.3 An Example of Evergreens Leaves F.4 2-Ranked Leaves



F. 5 Compound Opposite Leaves, Pinnately left, Palmately right F. 6 Compound Alternate Leaves, Pinnately left, Palmately right

On the following pages, you will find icons that provide additional information about the listed trees. Read more about them below.



Pollinator Friendly: Trees which benefit the declining population of pollinators by providing pollen and/or nectar to the many types of pollinators such as bees, butterflies, moths, and wasps.¹



Climate Adaptation: Trees expected to respond well (i.e., calculated as having low to moderate vulnerability) to climate change impacts such as warmer temperatures, changes in precipitation and increased risk of pests and disease.²



Host Plant: Trees that provide food for butterflies and moths during their larval stage (caterpillars) by being a specialized food source for the given insect.³



Non-native: Species that do not occur naturally in the Chicago region, but were brought in, often through the gardening industry. Some non-native species can become very aggressive and invasive, outcompeting native species.



Do Not Plant: Tree species that are often non-native and invasive in nature, that can escape from a garden or street setting into natural areas, where they outcompete native species, often leading to ecological degradation and biodiversity loss.

Chicago, Illinois, USA

Common TREES of the Chicago Region

Melissa Custic and Iza Redlinski



Photos: Jim Morefield, Martin LaBar, Gary Fewless, Dan Mullen, Kerry Woods, John Hagstrom and Andrey Zharkikh, The Morton Arboretum. Designed by: Alicia Diaz, Field Museum. Produced by: Melissa Custic [mcustic@mortonarb.org], Iza Redlinski, Alicia Diaz, Tyana Wachter, and Nigel Pitman. Support from the Morton Arboretum and the Keller Science Action Center of the Field Museum. ©The Field Museum, Chicago Region Trees Initiative and The Morton Arboretum.



© Melissa Custic (2020) CC BY-NC 4.0. Licensed works are free to use/share/remix with attribution, but does not permit commercial use of the original work.

[fieldguides.fieldmuseum.org] 1247 version 1 8/2020



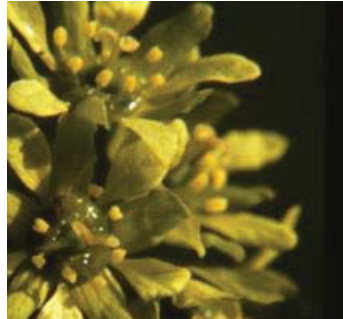
Simple Opposite Leaves

Leaves

Flower

Fruit/Cone

Bark



1. *Acer platanoides*
Norway Maple

Samaras (the fruit) are joined together at base; has many different cultivars with various characteristics. Lookalike: Sugar Maple which has clear sap. Can be monoecious or dioecious.



2. *Acer rubrum*
Red Maple

Leaves have 3 palmate lobes, base leaf cordate (heart shaped) to rounded, petiole (leaf stem) is green to red. Samaras (fruit) are connected at a 45-90° angle.



3. *Acer saccharinum*
Silver Maple

Leaves with 5 palmate lobes which are further divided into smaller secondary lobes. Tree grows rapidly.



Chicago, Illinois, USA

Common TREES of the Chicago Region

Melissa Custic and Iza Redlinski



Photos: Jim Morefield, Martin LaBar, Gary Fewless, Dan Mullen, Kerry Woods, John Hagstrom and Andrey Zharkikh, The Morton Arboretum. Designed by: Alicia Diaz, Field Museum. Produced by: Melissa Custic [mcustic@mortonarb.org], Iza Redlinski, Alicia Diaz, Tyana Wachter, and Nigel Pitman. Support from the Morton Arboretum and the Keller Science Action Center of the Field Museum. ©The Field Museum, Chicago Region Trees Initiative and The Morton Arboretum.



© Melissa Custic (2020) CC BY-NC 4.0. Licensed works are free to use/share/remix with attribution, but does not permit commercial use of the original work.

[fieldguides.fieldmuseum.org] 1247 version 1 8/2020



Simple Opposite Leaves

Leaves

Flower

Fruit/Cone

Bark



4. *Acer saccharum*
Sugar Maple

Leaves with pointed tips and rounded sinuses. Maple syrup is made of Sugar Maple's sap. Differentiated from Norway Maple by sap: Norway Maple sap is milky and sugar maple's is clear.



5. *Acer x freemanii*
Freeman's Maple

Edges of leaves toothed sharply and irregularly. Petiole red to reddish-green.



6. *Catalpa speciosa*
Northern Catalpa

Seeds blunt on both sides and crushed leaves do not have an odor.



Chicago, Illinois, USA

Common TREES of the Chicago Region

Melissa Custic and Iza Redlinski



Photos: Jim Morefield, Martin LaBar, Gary Fewless, Dan Mullen, Kerry Woods, John Hagstrom and Andrey Zharkikh, The Morton Arboretum. Designed by: Alicia Diaz, Field Museum. Produced by: Melissa Custic [mcustic@mortonarb.org], Iza Redlinski, Alicia Diaz, Tyana Wachter, and Nigel Pitman. Support from the Morton Arboretum and the Keller Science Action Center of the Field Museum. ©The Field Museum, Chicago Region Trees Initiative and The Morton Arboretum.



© Melissa Custic (2020) CC BY-NC 4.0. Licensed works are free to use/share/remix with attribution, but does not permit commercial use of the original work.

[fieldguides.fieldmuseum.org] 1247 version 1 8/2020



Simple Opposite Leaves

Leaves

Flower

Fruit/Cone

Bark



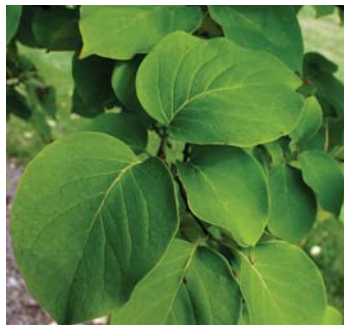
7. *Lonicera maackii*
Honeysuckle

A very invasive and aggressive species that easily escapes gardens to natural areas. Do not plant. If present cut the trunk and apply concentrated herbicide to stump.



8. *Rhamnus cathartica*
European Buckthorn
*Simple Mostly Opposite

One of the most problematic species in Chicagoland; invades and destroys the natural areas changing soil chemistry. Do not plant. If present cut the trunk and apply concentrated herbicide to stump.



9. *Syringa reticulata*
Tree Lilac

Bark has horizontal lenticels. Known to occasionally have escaped into natural areas. Close relative, Common Lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*), does not seem to escape into naturalized areas and is also used commercially.



Chicago, Illinois, USA

Common TREES of the Chicago Region

Melissa Custic and Iza Redlinski



Photos: Jim Morefield, Martin LaBar, Gary Fewless, Dan Mullen, Kerry Woods, John Hagstrom and Andrey Zharkikh, The Morton Arboretum. Designed by: Alicia Diaz, Field Museum. Produced by: Melissa Custic [mcustic@mortonarb.org], Iza Redlinski, Alicia Diaz, Tyana Wachter, and Nigel Pitman. Support from the Morton Arboretum and the Keller Science Action Center of the Field Museum. ©The Field Museum, Chicago Region Trees Initiative and The Morton Arboretum.



© Melissa Custic (2020) CC BY-NC 4.0. Licensed works are free to use/share/remix with attribution, but does not permit commercial use of the original work.

[fieldguides.fieldmuseum.org] 1247 version 1 8/2020



Simple Alternate Leaves

Leaves

Flower

Fruit/Cone

Bark



10. *Betula nigra*
River Birch



Leaves are doubly serrate (meaning the teeth of the leaf are also serrated). This Birch's bark is more brown than white like in the other birch species. It can tolerate acidic soils (pH 2-4). Catkins sometimes look like pinecones.



11. *Betula papyrifera*
Paper Birch



This tree is a great alternative to the two frequently cultivated European Birches: Weeping White Birch (*Betula pendula*) and White Birch (*Betula pubescens*) which have smaller leaves (1.5-2.5 inches).



12. *Celtis occidentalis*
Hackberry



Characteristic bark is warty. The base of the leaf is heart shaped but asymmetrical with 3 radiating veins. A non-threatening, wart-like bump on the leaves called nipple gall is common.



Chicago, Illinois, USA

Common TREES of the Chicago Region

Melissa Custic and Iza Redlinski



Photos: Jim Morefield, Martin LaBar, Gary Fewless, Dan Mullen, Kerry Woods, John Hagstrom and Andrey Zharkikh, The Morton Arboretum. Designed by: Alicia Diaz, Field Museum. Produced by: Melissa Custic [mcustic@mortonarb.org], Iza Redlinski, Alicia Diaz, Tyana Wachter, and Nigel Pitman. Support from the Morton Arboretum and the Keller Science Action Center of the Field Museum. ©The Field Museum, Chicago Region Trees Initiative and The Morton Arboretum.



© Melissa Custic (2020) CC BY-NC 4.0. Licensed works are free to use/share/remix with attribution, but does not permit commercial use of the original work.

[fieldguides.fieldmuseum.org] 1247 version 1 8/2020



Simple Alternate Leaves

Leaves

Flower

Fruit/Cone

Bark



13. *Crataegus mollis*
Downy Hawthorn

The leaves are pubescent (hairy) as are the young shoots and immature fruit. Hawthorns, like the name indicates have true, smooth and sharp, irregularly placed and unbranched thorns that come from the sides of branches.



14. *Ginkgo biloba*
Ginkgo

A living fossil tree, there are leaf fossils of this species dating to 270 million years ago! The leaves are fan-shaped, unusual and unlike any other species. The female trees should be avoided; they produce fruit that has a strong and foul odor.



15. *Malus* cultivars
Crabapple and Apple

Most Crabapples in our region are cultivars of non-native species. The native *Malus coronaria* and *Malus ioensis* have lobed leaves on the new shoots and doubly serrate leaf margins.



Chicago, Illinois, USA

Common TREES of the Chicago Region

Melissa Custic and Iza Redlinski



Photos: Jim Morefield, Martin LaBar, Gary Fewless, Dan Mullen, Kerry Woods, John Hagstrom and Andrey Zharkikh, The Morton Arboretum. Designed by: Alicia Diaz, Field Museum. Produced by: Melissa Custic [mcustic@mortonarb.org], Iza Redlinski, Alicia Diaz, Tyana Wachter, and Nigel Pitman. Support from the Morton Arboretum and the Keller Science Action Center of the Field Museum. ©The Field Museum, Chicago Region Trees Initiative and The Morton Arboretum.



© Melissa Custic (2020) CC BY-NC 4.0. Licensed works are free to use/share/remix with attribution, but does not permit commercial use of the original work.

[fieldguides.fieldmuseum.org] 1247 version 1 8/2020



Simple Alternate Leaves

Leaves

Flower

Fruit/Cone

Bark



16. *Morus alba*
White Mulberry

Native Red Mulberry has rough upper surface of the leaf and hairs between the veins on the other side, which White Mulberry lacks. In winter buds spread away from the twig, while White Mulberry's stay pressed to the twig.



17. *Ostrya virginiana*
Hop Hornbeam

Leaves are ovate, pinnately veined, and doubly serrate along margins. Another name is Ironwood.



18. *Platanus occidentalis*
Sycamore (Buttonwood)

Large leaves might resemble maple trees but are much less lobed. The bark on older trees peels on the upper half of the trunk revealing white and gray patches. Fall seed pods look like dry cherries.



Chicago, Illinois, USA

Common TREES of the Chicago Region

Melissa Custic and Iza Redlinski



Photos: Jim Morefield, Martin LaBar, Gary Fewless, Dan Mullen, Kerry Woods, John Hagstrom and Andrey Zharkikh, The Morton Arboretum. Designed by: Alicia Diaz, Field Museum. Produced by: Melissa Custic [mcustic@mortonarb.org], Iza Redlinski, Alicia Diaz, Tyana Wachter, and Nigel Pitman. Support from the Morton Arboretum and the Keller Science Action Center of the Field Museum. ©The Field Museum, Chicago Region Trees Initiative and The Morton Arboretum.



© Melissa Custic (2020) CC BY-NC 4.0. Licensed works are free to use/share/remix with attribution, but does not permit commercial use of the original work.

[fieldguides.fieldmuseum.org] 1247 version 1 8/2020



Simple Alternate Leaves

Leaves

Flower

Fruit/Cone

Bark



19. *Populus deltoides*
Eastern Cottonwood

The leaf is widest at its base and comes to a slender tip, margins are rounded and hooked. The trunk is stout and the bark very coarsely and deeply ridged. Seeds can aggressively establish in a disturbed natural area.



20. *Prunus serotina*
Black Cherry

On branches the lenticels are white and horizontal. Mature bark sometimes looks like a burned cornflake. Leaf surface is dark green and smooth, while underside is light green.



21. *Pyrus calleryana*
Callery Pear

The top surface of the leaves is shiny and dark green, the underside is light green and not shiny. The leaf is broadest at the base. This aggressive tree is spreading through forest preserves. It also has a pungent odor in spring and is prone to breaking on windy days.



Chicago, Illinois, USA

Common TREES of the Chicago Region

Melissa Custic and Iza Redlinski



Photos: Jim Morefield, Martin LaBar, Gary Fewless, Dan Mullen, Kerry Woods, John Hagstrom and Andrey Zharkikh, The Morton Arboretum. Designed by: Alicia Diaz, Field Museum. Produced by: Melissa Custic [mcustic@mortonarb.org], Iza Redlinski, Alicia Diaz, Tyana Wachter, and Nigel Pitman. Support from the Morton Arboretum and the Keller Science Action Center of the Field Museum. ©The Field Museum, Chicago Region Trees Initiative and The Morton Arboretum.



© Melissa Custic (2020) CC BY-NC 4.0. Licensed works are free to use/share/remix with attribution, but does not permit commercial use of the original work.

[fieldguides.fieldmuseum.org] 1247 version 1 8/2020



Simple Alternate Leaves

Leaves

Flower

Fruit/Cone

Bark



22. *Pyrus communis*
Common Pear

Leaves broadest at or above the middle, produces edible fruit.



23. *Quercus alba*
White Oak

State tree of Illinois. 3-5 pairs of deep to medium lobes with blunt rounded tips; mature leaves smooth with no hairs. Warty cup extends to about ¼ of the length of acorn.



24. *Quercus bicolor*
Swamp White Oak

Lower surface of leaves has some downiness or small hairs. Fringeless and tan acorn cup narrowly seated on top ¼ of a brown acorn. High wildlife value.



Chicago, Illinois, USA

Common TREES of the Chicago Region

Melissa Custic and Iza Redlinski



Photos: Jim Morefield, Martin LaBar, Gary Fewless, Dan Mullen, Kerry Woods, John Hagstrom and Andrey Zharkikh, The Morton Arboretum. Designed by: Alicia Diaz, Field Museum. Produced by: Melissa Custic [mcustic@mortonarb.org], Iza Redlinski, Alicia Diaz, Tyana Wachter, and Nigel Pitman. Support from the Morton Arboretum and the Keller Science Action Center of the Field Museum. ©The Field Museum, Chicago Region Trees Initiative and The Morton Arboretum.



© Melissa Custic (2020) CC BY-NC 4.0. Licensed works are free to use/share/remix with attribution, but does not permit commercial use of the original work.

[fieldguides.fieldmuseum.org] 1247 version 1 8/2020



Simple Alternate Leaves

Leaves

Flower

Fruit/Cone

Bark



25. *Quercus macrocarpa*
Bur Oak

A signature savanna tree. Bark is corky with ridges; leaf lobes cut deeply into the middle of the leaf especially in the lower half, tips rounded. The cup surrounds most of the acorn and is heavily fringed. Great for wildlife.



26. *Quercus palustris*
Pin Oak

Leaves have deep lobes and come to a pointed tip; leaves often grow in bunches. Acorns mature to be dark brown to black, with the overlapping scales on cap present on top ¼ of the acorn.



27. *Quercus rubra*
Northern Red Oak

Petioles (leaf stems) of sun-exposed leaves can turn red; leaves have large pointed teeth between the lobes. Acorns with shallow cups. One of the biggest oak species in the region.



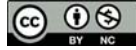
Chicago, Illinois, USA

Common TREES of the Chicago Region

Melissa Custic and Iza Redlinski



Photos: Jim Morefield, Martin LaBar, Gary Fewless, Dan Mullen, Kerry Woods, John Hagstrom and Andrey Zharkikh, The Morton Arboretum. Designed by: Alicia Diaz, Field Museum. Produced by: Melissa Custic [mcustic@mortonarb.org], Iza Redlinski, Alicia Diaz, Tyana Wachter, and Nigel Pitman. Support from the Morton Arboretum and the Keller Science Action Center of the Field Museum. ©The Field Museum, Chicago Region Trees Initiative and The Morton Arboretum.



© Melissa Custic (2020) CC BY-NC 4.0. Licensed works are free to use/share/remix with attribution, but does not permit commercial use of the original work.

[fieldguides.fieldmuseum.org] 1247 version 1 8/2020



Simple Alternate Leaves

Leaves

Flower

Fruit/Cone

Bark



28. *Tilia americana*
American Basswood

Large heart-shaped leaves with uneven bases. Bark is smooth. Young twigs are zigzagged. European species of the same genus are often used in cultivation.



29. *Tilia cordata*
Little-leaved Linden

Leaves smaller than American Basswood, 3 inches or less. A common and popular species in homes, resistant to disease. Great for bees.



30. *Ulmus americana*
American Elm

Elm leaves feel like sandpaper. Leaves doubly serrate, 3-5 inches long. The bark is corky and when peeled and cut in half might reveal light and dark layers (affectionally called the ham and cheese sandwich).



Chicago, Illinois, USA

Common TREES of the Chicago Region

Melissa Custic and Iza Redlinski



Photos: Jim Morefield, Martin LaBar, Gary Fewless, Dan Mullen, Kerry Woods, John Hagstrom and Andrey Zharkikh, The Morton Arboretum. Designed by: Alicia Diaz, Field Museum. Produced by: Melissa Custic [mcustic@mortonarb.org], Iza Redlinski, Alicia Diaz, Tyana Wachter, and Nigel Pitman. Support from the Morton Arboretum and the Keller Science Action Center of the Field Museum. ©The Field Museum, Chicago Region Trees Initiative and The Morton Arboretum.



© Melissa Custic (2020) CC BY-NC 4.0. Licensed works are free to use/share/remix with attribution, but does not permit commercial use of the original work.

[fieldguides.fieldmuseum.org] 1247 version 1 8/2020



Simple Alternate Leaves

Leaves

Flower

Fruit/Cone

Bark



(C) 2002, Gary Fewless



31. *Ulmus pumila*
Siberian Elm

Roots of this species can become a problem with older, cracked sewer lines. Leaves are smaller than American Elm, by about 1 inch.



Opposite Pinnately Compound Leaves

Leaves

Flower

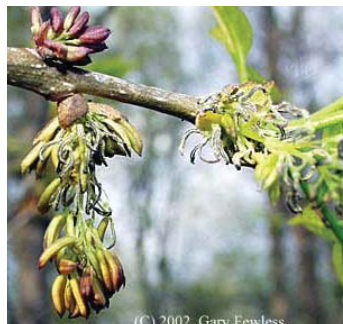
Fruit/Cone

Bark



32. *Acer negundo*
Boxelder

Young shoots are green with white lenticels (breathing pores). Does well in a disturbed habitat and can become invasive. 3 leaflets – all different sizes and shapes – are somewhat reminiscent of poison ivy.



(C) 2002, Gary Fewless



33. *Fraxinus americana*
White Ash

Young twigs often with a white powdery coating. Less common than Green Ash and can be distinguished from it by a U-shaped leaf scar (as opposed to a semicircle). Recent steep decline due to Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). For untreated tree on your property, contact a certified arborist - infected trees or dead ones pose a serious safety concern. If you have an untreated healthy ash, please alert the Lingering Ash program.



Chicago, Illinois, USA

Common TREES of the Chicago Region

Melissa Custic and Iza Redlinski



Photos: Jim Morefield, Martin LaBar, Gary Fewless, Dan Mullen, Kerry Woods, John Hagstrom and Andrey Zharkikh, The Morton Arboretum. Designed by: Alicia Diaz, Field Museum. Produced by: Melissa Custic [mcustic@mortonarb.org], Iza Redlinski, Alicia Diaz, Tyana Wachter, and Nigel Pitman. Support from the Morton Arboretum and the Keller Science Action Center of the Field Museum. ©The Field Museum, Chicago Region Trees Initiative and The Morton Arboretum.



© Melissa Custic (2020) CC BY-NC 4.0. Licensed works are free to use/share/remix with attribution, but does not permit commercial use of the original work.

[fieldguides.fieldmuseum.org] 1247 version 1 8/2020



Opposite Pinnately Compound Leaves

Leaves

Flower

Fruit/Cone

Bark



34. *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*
Green (Red) Ash

Recent steep decline in population due to Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Surviving trees have been treated (look for a tag on the tree). If you have an untreated tree on your property contact a certified arborist – infected trees or dead ones pose a serious safety concern. If you have an untreated healthy ash please alert the Lingering Ash program.



Alternate Pinnately Compound Leaves

Leaves

Flower

Fruit/Cone

Bark



35. *Ailanthus altissima*
Tree of Heaven

Very aggressive, infests natural areas. Hard to get rid of. To remove – do not cut. Apply basal bark oil with herbicide and cut when tree dies. Young shoots fuzzy gray, no terminal leaflet.



36. *Carya ovata*
Shagbark Hickory

The compound leaf usually has 5 leaflets with the terminal leaflet being the largest. The bark of mature individuals can peel and curve upwards. The fruit (husk) is made of 4 segments.

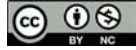


Chicago, Illinois, USA Common TREES of the Chicago Region

Melissa Custic and Iza Redlinski



Photos: Jim Morefield, Martin LaBar, Gary Fewless, Dan Mullen, Kerry Woods, John Hagstrom and Andrey Zharkikh, The Morton Arboretum. Designed by: Alicia Diaz, Field Museum. Produced by: Melissa Custic [mcustic@mortonarb.org], Iza Redlinski, Alicia Diaz, Tyana Wachter, and Nigel Pitman. Support from the Morton Arboretum and the Keller Science Action Center of the Field Museum. ©The Field Museum, Chicago Region Trees Initiative and The Morton Arboretum.



© Melissa Custic (2020) CC BY-NC 4.0. Licensed works are free to use/share/remix with attribution, but does not permit commercial use of the original work.

[fieldguides.fieldmuseum.org] 1247 version 1 8/2020



Compound Alternate, Pinnately

Leaves

Flower

Fruit/Cone

Bark



**37. *Gleditsia triacanthos*
f. *inermis*
Thornless Honey-locust**

Leaves can be doubly compound; leaflets < 1.5 inches, no terminal leaflet. Different from Black Locust by color and shape of flower (latter has white flowers – common pea flower structure).



**38. *Gymnocladus dioica*
Kentucky Coffeetree**

Leaves doubly compound – dividing and subdividing. Leaflets are 2-2.5 inches long. Leaflets can be alternate or opposite. The pith is orange to dark brown.



**39. *Juglans nigra*
Black Walnut**

Leaf is 1-2 feet long, leaflets are 3 inches long. Sometimes the terminal leaflet might be missing. Fruit with a strong citrusy smell. Outside husks warty.



Chicago, Illinois, USA Common TREES of the Chicago Region

Melissa Custic and Iza Redlinski



Photos: Jim Morefield, Martin LaBar, Gary Fewless, Dan Mullen, Kerry Woods, John Hagstrom and Andrey Zharkikh, The Morton Arboretum. Designed by: Alicia Diaz, Field Museum. Produced by: Melissa Custic [mcustic@mortonarb.org], Iza Redlinski, Alicia Diaz, Tyana Wachter, and Nigel Pitman. Support from the Morton Arboretum and the Keller Science Action Center of the Field Museum. ©The Field Museum, Chicago Region Trees Initiative and The Morton Arboretum.



© Melissa Custic (2020) CC BY-NC 4.0. Licensed works are free to use/share/remix with attribution, but does not permit commercial use of the original work.

[fieldguides.fieldmuseum.org] 1247 version 1 8/2020



Compound Alternate, Pinnately

Leaves

Flower

Fruit/Cone

Bark



40. *Robinia pseudoacacia*
Black Locust

Leaflet tips rounded, has terminal leaflet. Short paired thorns around where the leaves grew in previous season. The flower is fragrant but short-lived.



Evergreen

Leaves

Fruit/Cone

Bark



41. *Juniperus virginiana*
Eastern Red-cedar

Trunk bark is fibrous and can be reddish brown and becomes gray and thick with time. 2 types of leaves: awl-shaped (1-3 yr old trees) and scale-shape (more mature) both of which are hairless and become dark green.



42. *Picea abies*
Norway Spruce

Needles ½-1 inches, 4 angular, with dull tips. Largest cone of any spruce in Illinois, exceeds 4 inches, scales of the cone appressed. Branchlets horizontal and drooping.



Chicago, Illinois, USA

Common TREES of the Chicago Region

Melissa Custic and Iza Redlinski



Photos: Jim Morefield, Martin LaBar, Gary Fewless, Dan Mullen, Kerry Woods, John Hagstrom and Andrey Zharkikh, The Morton Arboretum. Designed by: Alicia Diaz, Field Museum. Produced by: Melissa Custic [mcustic@mortonarb.org], Iza Redlinski, Alicia Diaz, Tyana Wachter, and Nigel Pitman. Support from the Morton Arboretum and the Keller Science Action Center of the Field Museum. ©The Field Museum, Chicago Region Trees Initiative and The Morton Arboretum.



© Melissa Custic (2020) CC BY-NC 4.0. Licensed works are free to use/share/remix with attribution, but does not permit commercial use of the original work.

[fieldguides.fieldmuseum.org] 1247 version 1 8/2020



Evergreen

Leaves

Fruit/Cone

Bark



43. *Picea glauca*
White Spruce

Branchlets not droopy, blue-green needles growing individually, twigs hairless. Spruce needles are typically sharp tipped, unlike a fir or pine.



44. *Picea pungens* var. *glauca*
Blue Spruce

Needles are very sharp, have a blue-green tint to them. Cones reach 3 inches and are green before they mature.



45. *Pinus nigra*
Austrian Pine

2 needles per fascicle (bundle), bent easily without breaking, at least 2 3/4 inches long.



Chicago, Illinois, USA

Common TREES of the Chicago Region

Melissa Custic and Iza Redlinski



Photos: Jim Morefield, Martin LaBar, Gary Fewless, Dan Mullen, Kerry Woods, John Hagstrom and Andrey Zharkikh, The Morton Arboretum. Designed by: Alicia Diaz, Field Museum. Produced by: Melissa Custic [mcustic@mortonarb.org], Iza Redlinski, Alicia Diaz, Tyana Wachter, and Nigel Pitman. Support from the Morton Arboretum and the Keller Science Action Center of the Field Museum. ©The Field Museum, Chicago Region Trees Initiative and The Morton Arboretum.



© Melissa Custic (2020) CC BY-NC 4.0. Licensed works are free to use/share/remix with attribution, but does not permit commercial use of the original work.

[fieldguides.fieldmuseum.org] 1247 version 1 8/2020



Evergreen

Leaves

Fruit/Cone

Bark



46. *Pinus strobus*
Eastern White Pine

Needles growing 5 to a fascicle (a bunch). Historical accounts suggest it used to be common in the dune areas surrounding Lake Michigan but has been cut for timber.



47. *Thuja occidentalis*
Northern White Cedar/
Eastern Arborvitae

Appressed opposite, scalelike leaves growing from branchlets, flattened. Leaves are 1.5-5 mm and yellow to green. Many cultivars with various shapes and colors available.



48. *Tsuga canadensis*
Eastern Hemlock

Needles are two-ranked, white on the underside, twig rough when falls. Seed cones are ½-1 inches long. Found in very few natural areas in larger Chicagoland area.

Chicago, Illinois, USA

Common TREES of the Chicago Region

18

Melissa Custic and Iza Redlinski



Photos: Jim Morefield, Martin LaBar, Gary Fewless, Dan Mullen, Kerry Woods, John Hagstrom and Andrey Zharkikh, The Morton Arboretum. Designed by: Alicia Diaz, Field Museum. Produced by: Melissa Custic [mcustic@mortonarb.org], Iza Redlinski, Alicia Diaz, Tyana Wachter, and Nigel Pitman. Support from the Morton Arboretum and the Keller Science Action Center of the Field Museum. ©The Field Museum, Chicago Region Trees Initiative and The Morton Arboretum.



© Melissa Custic (2020) CC BY-NC 4.0. Licensed works are free to use/share/remix with attribution, but does not permit commercial use of the original work.

[fieldguides.fieldmuseum.org] 1247 version 1 8/2020



Alternate 2-ranked Leaves

Leaves

Fruit/Cone

Bark



49. *Taxodium distichum*
Bald Cypress

This tree loses its needles for the winter. It has pneumatophores or "cypress knees" which are roots that grow up to absorb oxygen.



Glossary

alternate	one after another along an axis, not opposite. ⁴
appressed	lying flat against a surface. ⁴
awl-shaped	describes a shape that is broad at the base and gently tapers off.
basal bark oil	a solvent for herbicide that helps to penetrate into the inside of trees to successfully administer the herbicide and kill the tree.
branchlet	a division of a branch, smaller than the main branch. ⁴
compound	an assembly of two or more like parts, such as in a description of a leaf or inflorescence. ⁴
cordate	heart-shaped. ⁴
deciduous	Pertaining to plants that shed their herbaceous tissues; not evergreen; caducous. ⁴
dioecious	Pertaining to plants, individuals of which bear either staminate or pistillate flowers, but not both. ⁴
serrate	with sharp, typically forward-pointing teeth. ⁴
compound	an assembly of two or more like parts, such as in a description of a leaf or inflorescence. ⁴
emerald ash borer	an invasive insect whose larvae feed on the inside of the bark of ash trees, leading to tree death.
fascicle	a cluster or a bundle, often originating in an axil. ⁴
husk	outer shell of a seed, can refer to the legume pod.
lobe	any segment or division, particularly if blunt, but more developed than a tooth. ⁴
leaf scar	marking on a twig formed from the abscission of the leaf, usually revealing the pattern of vascular bundles in the leaf trace. ⁴
leaflet	leaf-like segment of a compound leaf, not associated with an axillary bud. ⁴
lenticel	a corky spot on young bark that corresponds functionally to a stomate on a leaf. ⁴
monoecious	pertaining to plants, individuals of which bear both staminate and pistillate flowers, but not necessarily perfect flowers. ⁴
opposite	arranged in pairs along an axis, not alternate. ⁴
ovate	egg-shaped, broadest below the middle. ⁴
palmate	radiately lobed or divided, the axes of the individual segments originating at or near the common point. ⁴
petiole	the stalk of a leaf. ⁴
pinnate	in reference to a foliar structure that is compound or deeply divided, the principal divisions arranged along each side of a common axis. ⁴
pith	the parenchymatous, often spongy or porous central portions of the stems or branchlets. ⁴
samara	an indehiscent, winged fruit. ⁴
simple	not compound, a term usually applying to leaves; also in reference to a stem, without branchlets or modifications. ⁴
terminal (leaflet)	positioned at the summit. ⁴
two-ranked	often referring to evergreens, showing leaves on a horizontal plane, aligned along two sides of a branch.

References and Acknowledgments

- Holm, Heather. *Native Trees and Shrubs for Pollinators*. 2018. <https://www.pollinatorsnativeplants.com/>
- Brandt, Leslie A.; Derby Lewis, Abigail; Scott, Lydia; Darling, Lindsay; Fahey, Robert T.; Iverson, Louis; Nowak, David J.; Bodine, Allison R.; Bell, Andrew; Still, Shannon; Butler, Patricia R.; Dierich, Andrea; Handler, Stephen D.; Janowiak, Maria K.; Matthews, Stephen N.; Miesbauer, Jason W.; Peters, Matthew; Prasad, Anantha; Shannon, P. Danielle; Stotz, Douglas; Swanston, Christopher W. 2017. *Chicago Wilderness region urban forest vulnerability assessment and synthesis: a report from the Urban Forestry Climate Change Response Framework Chicago Wilderness pilot project*. Gen. Tech. Rep. NRS-168. Newtown Square, PA: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northern Research Station. 142 p. <https://doi.org/10.2737/NRS-GTR-168>. https://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/pubs/gtr/gtr_nrs168.pdf
- Tallamy, Douglas W. *Bringing nature home: how you can sustain wildlife with native plants*. Portland: Timber Press. 2009.
- Wilhelm, Gerould; Rericha, Laura. *Flora of the Chicago Region: A Floristic and Ecological Synthesis*. Indiana Academy of Science, 2017.