

WILLOW OAK



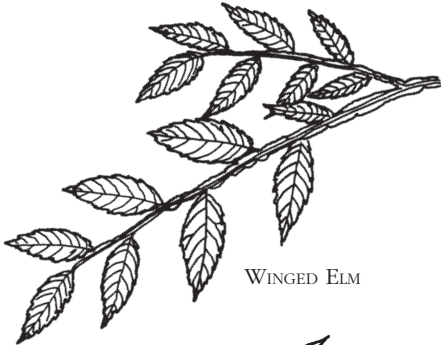
VIRGINIA PINE



EASTERN COTTONWOOD



BLACKJACK OAK



WINGED ELM



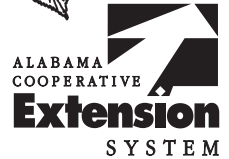
WATER OAK



SILVER MAPLE

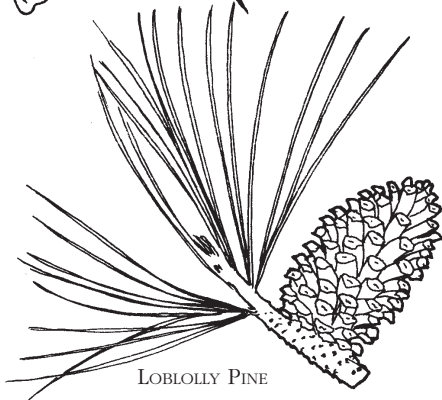


SHAGBARK  
HICKORY  
BITTERNUT HICKORY



# A Key to Common Native Trees of Alabama

ANR-0509



LOBLOLLY PINE

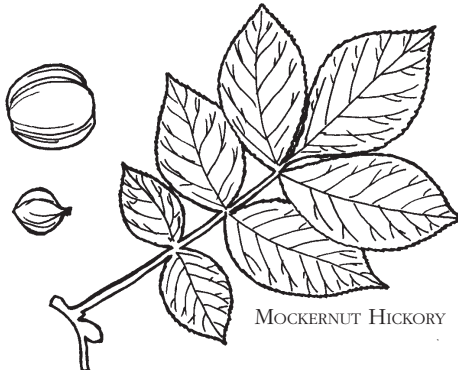


CUCUMBERTREE

SHORTLEAF PINE



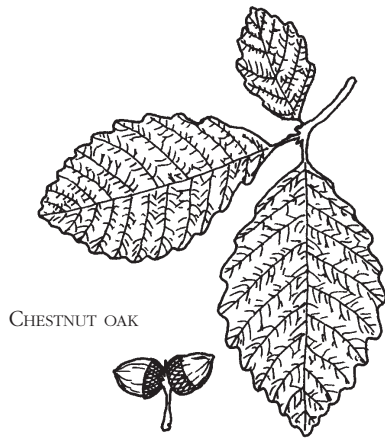
COMMON PERSIMMON



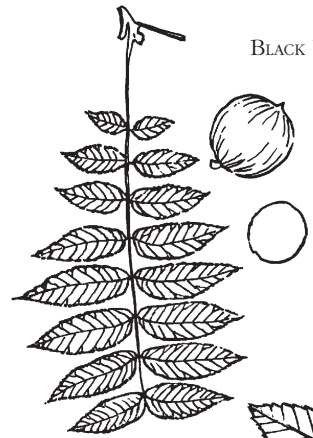
MOCKERNUT HICKORY



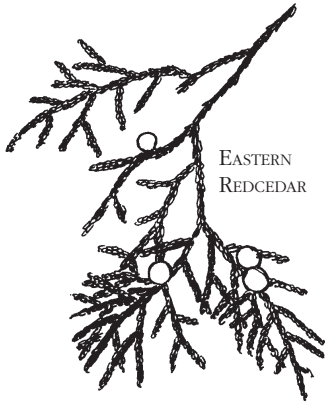
EASTERN REDBUD



CHESTNUT OAK



BLACK WALNUT



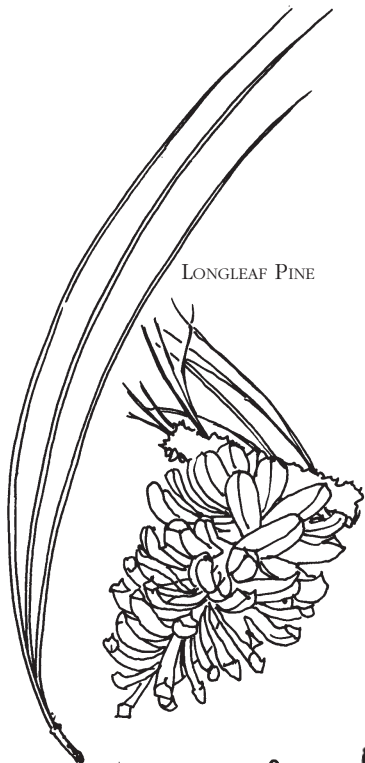
EASTERN REDCEDAR



SOUTHERN RED OAK



AMERICAN BEECH



LONGLEAF PINE



SHUMARD OAK



AMERICAN HOLLY

AMERICAN ELM



OVERCUP OAK



YELLOW-POPLAR OR TULIPTREE

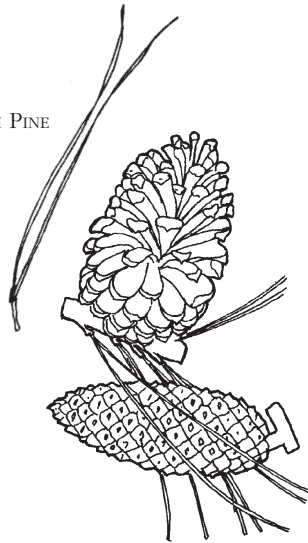


RED MAPLE

WHITE OAK



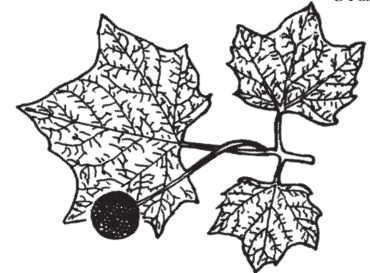
SLASH PINE



RED MULBERRY



SYCAMORE



# A Key to Common Native Trees of Alabama

*This key can help you identify 69 of the **most common native trees** found in Alabama. Keys such as this one, which is based on a series of choices between two statements, are called **dichotomous keys**. This key was designed for use during the growing season; therefore, leaf characteristics are the primary features used for identification.*

A listing of the common and scientific names for the 69 trees is found on page 9. This key will not work for trees that do not appear on this list. The following suggestions should help you as you begin working with the key:

(1) Always start at the beginning of the key and follow it step by step. Each choice will refer you to the next step, which may be a number, another section in the key, or the conclusion or species. It is a good practice to write down your order of progress, such as 1 - 2 - 4. This will make it easier for you to find and correct mistakes.

(2) Always read both choices, even if the first choice sounds correct. The second one may sound even better.

(3) If the choice between two statements is not clear, or you don't have enough information to make the choice, follow both choices to their conclusions. Then, try to choose between the descriptions of the two resulting answers.

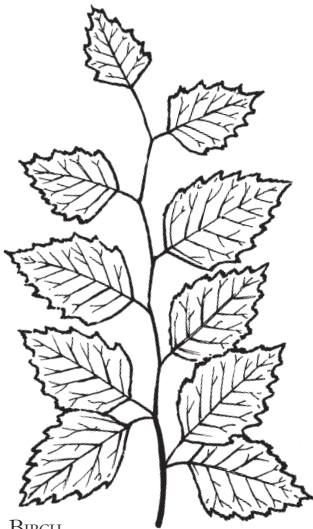
(4) Always look at several samples when keying a specimen. Key characteristics, especially leaves, can vary even on the same tree.

(5) When measurements are given, as in the size of the leaves, don't guess. Use a ruler.

(6) Become familiar with the botanical terms used to describe trees. Terms used in this key are illustrated on pages 10 through 13.

Some of the species covered do not occur throughout the state. The following codes indicate the general range where each occurs. S—southern third of state, C—central portion of state, N—northern third of state, A—all of state.

RIVER BIRCH



SWEET BAY



# Tree Identification Key

- 1. Leaves needle-like or scale-like; trees with cones ..... see **Conifers**
- 1. Leaves flat and broad; trees without cones ..... see **Hardwoods**

## Conifers

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- 1. Leaves needle-like ..... 2
- 1. Leaves scale-like, sometimes longer (¼ inch) pointed on the end and prickly to the touch; bark reddish-brown and fibrous; cones look like bluish-gray berries about ¼ inch in diameter; cones occur only on female trees ..... (A) eastern redcedar
- 2. Needles attached to the twig in bundles or clusters ..... see **Yellow Pines**
- 2. Needles flat, attached to the twig separately, not in bundles or clusters ..... 3
- 3. Needles yellow-green, ½- to ¾-inch long; foliage has a feather-like appearance and falls off in the winter; (in closely related pond cypress, needles are overlapping on branchlets that curve upwards); bark fibrous, scaly, reddish brown but weathers to ash-gray; cones rounded like a ball; trees are found most commonly in swamps ..... (SC) baldcypress
- 3. Needles are shiny-green above with 2 white stripes underneath, ⅓ to ½ inch long; cones light-brown, borne on the ends of the branches; trees evergreen; drooping branches may hang to the ground ..... (N) eastern hemlock

## Yellow Pines

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- 1. Needles in bundles or clusters of 3 ..... 2
- 1. Needles primarily in bundles or clusters of 2, or sometimes 2 and 3 on the same tree ..... 3
- 2. Needles 5 to 9 inches long; cones 3 to 6 inches long and prickly to the touch ..... (A) loblolly pine
- 2. Needles 8 to 18 inches long; cones large in size, 6 to 10 inches long; seedlings look like clumps of grass ..... (SC) longleaf pine
- 3. Needles less than 5 inches long ..... 4
- 3. Needles usually 7 to 12 inches long, usually 2, sometimes 3 needles per bundle; cones 2 to 6 inches long, glossy, and not prickly when squeezed ..... (S) slash pine
- 4. Needles twisted ..... 5
- 4. Needles straight, 3 to 5 inches long; cones 1½ to 3 inches long, bark often has small “blisters” on it ..... (A) shortleaf pine
- 5. Needles stout, 1½ to 3 inches long yellow-green; cones 1½ to 2½ inches long with long prickles on scales; usually a very limby tree, bark orange-brown, usually found on dry sites ..... (NC) Virginia pine
- 5. Needles slender, 2 to 4 inches long, dark green; cones 2 to 3½ inches long; bark silver-gray, furrowed, more like the bark of a hardwood than a pine; trees usually found in stream bottoms ..... (SC) spruce pine

## Hardwoods

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- 1. Leaves and buds opposite ..... 2
- 1. Leaves and buds alternate ..... 7
- 2. Leaves compound ..... 3
- 2. Leaves simple ..... 5
- 3. Leaves pinnately compound or trifoliate (three leaflets) ..... 4
- 3. Leaves palmately compound ..... (A) buckeye
- 4. Leaflet edges smooth (entire), not toothed ..... see **Ashes**
- 4. Leaflet edges toothed (serrate) ..... see **Maples**
- 5. Leaves not lobed ..... 6
- 5. Leaves lobed ..... see **Maples**
- 6. Leaves heart-shaped ..... (SC) southern catalpa
- 6. Leaves oval-shaped with a pointed tip ..... (A) flowering dogwood
- 7. Leaves compound ..... 8

## Hardwoods (cont.)

- 
7. Leaves simple ..... 11
8. Leaflet edges smooth (entire), not toothed ..... 9
8. Leaflet edges finely toothed (serrate) ..... 10
9. Leaves once pinnately compound; twigs often armed with  
paired unbranched thorns at base of leaves..... (NC) black locust
9. Leaves once and twice pinnately compound; twigs and bark typically armed  
with thorns, commonly 3-branched ..... (A) honeylocust
10. Leaves with 15 to 23 leaflets; fruit a yellow-green ball 1½ to 2 inches in diameter;  
bark gray-brown to black ..... (NC) black walnut
10. Leaves with 5 to 17 leaflets, usually 15 or less ..... see **Hickories**
11. Leaf edges smooth (entire) ..... 12
11. Leaf edges toothed (serrate), with large or small “teeth” ..... 20
12. Leaves lobed ..... 13
12. Leaves not lobed ..... 15
13. Leaves all approximately the same shape ..... 14
13. Leaves mitten-shaped, 3-lobed and unlobed on the same tree; bark dark reddish brown;  
leaves, twigs, and roots smell like root beer ..... (A) sassafras
14. Leaves commonly 4-lobed, tulip-shaped; bark light gray ..... (A) yellow-poplar
14. Leaves not 4-lobed, fruit an acorn ..... see **Oaks**
15. Leaves heart-shaped, 3 to 5 inches; flower small and pinkish-purple;  
fruit a bean (legume), 2 to 3 inches long ..... (A) eastern redbud
15. Leaves not heart-shaped ..... 16
16. Leaf edges armed with sharp spines; fruit a red berry; tree evergreen ..... (A) American holly
16. Leaf edges not armed with sharp spines ..... 17
17. Twigs with narrow lines circling them where each leaf is attached ..... see **Magnolias**
17. Twigs without narrow lines circling them ..... 18
18. Twigs with single bud at the ends ..... 19
18. Twigs with cluster of buds at end of twigs, fruit an acorn ..... see **Oaks**
19. Base of leaves rounded, lateral buds dark and triangular (“snake head”), leaf scar  
with one slit-like bundle scar; fruit an orange to reddish purple berry;  
bark looks like the back of an alligator ..... (A) common persimmon
19. Base of leaves v-shaped to rounded, occasional large teeth on some leaves, lateral buds slender,  
red-brown to green-brown, leaf scar with three bundle scars; fruit a bluish-black drupe. ... see **Tupelos**
20. Leaves not lobed ..... 21
20. Leaves lobed ..... 31
21. Leaf edges singly toothed (serrate or coarsely serrate) ..... 22
21. Leaf edges doubly serrate ..... 28
22. Leaf edges coarsely serrate (with large blunt teeth) or very shallowly lobed ..... 23
22. Leaf edges more finely serrate ..... 24
23. Leaves triangular, 5 to 9 inches long, edges with large rounded teeth;  
leaf stem (petiole) 2 to 3 inches long and flattened near base ..... (A) eastern cottonwood
23. Leaves oval, with large rounded teeth or very shallowly lobed ..... see **Oaks**
24. Leaves somewhat triangular, egg-shaped or heart-shaped ..... 25
24. Leaves oval to football-shaped ..... 26
25. Leaf edges irregularly serrate, bottom half of leaves may have  
smooth edges, leaves 2 to 4 inches long, 1 to 2 inches wide, leaf tips may be  
very long or short, leaf veins make distinct V-shape at base of leaf;  
bark smooth gray with corky warts ..... (A) sugarberry
25. Leaf edges serrate, leaves 3 to 5 inches long, 2 to 3 inches wide;  
base heart-shaped or flattened; fruit small round, on long stalks  
attached to leafy bract; bark grayish brown becoming deeply furrowed ..... (A) basswood

**Hardwoods (cont.)**

- 26. Lateral veins of leaves not distinctly parallel to each other ..... 27
- 26. Lateral veins of leaves distinctly parallel to each other, with each vein ending at a tooth; buds brown, up to 1 inch long and cigar-shaped late summer through winter; bark thin, smooth and gray; leaves turn tannish-brown in the fall and stay on tree all winter ..... (A) American beech
- 27. Leaf edges finely serrate, leaves 2 to 6 inches long, leaf stem (petiole) often with 1 or 2 small glands near leaf base; often with tawny hair along underside of midrib ..... (A) black cherry
- 27. Leaf edges with very fine teeth or bristly hairs, leaves 4 to 7 inches long, turn red in the fall; small white, urn-shaped flowers in showy sprays at ends of branches mid-summer; bark deeply grooved to blocky; trunk often leaning ..... (A) sourwood
- 28. Leaves triangular to diamond shaped; bark pinkish to gray-brown, with peeling, papery layers exposing pinkish inner bark on young trees and upper trunk ..... (A) river birch
- 28. Leaves oval to football-shaped ..... 29
- 29. Leaf base round to heart-shaped ..... 30
- 29. Leaf base uneven, some twigs may have corky ridges or wings ..... see **Elms**
- 30. Bark bluish gray, thin and smooth with a muscular appearance; buds brown and white-striped ..... (A) American hornbeam
- 30. Bark reddish brown with thin, loose scales, often with a shreddy appearance; buds green and brown-striped ..... (A) eastern hophornbeam
- 31. Leaf edges finely to coarsely serrate ..... 32
- 31. Leaf edges with large, irregular teeth; leaves large and fan-shaped; bark brown and flaky, peeling off to expose smooth greenish or white inner bark, giving bark a splotchy appearance ..... (A) sycamore
- 32. Leaves star-shaped; twigs often have corky wings; fruit a spiny ball ..... (A) sweetgum
- 32. Leaves variable in size, unlobed, mitten-shaped or with 3 or more lobes on the same tree, upper surface of leaf sandpapery, leaf stem (petiole) exudes milky sap when cut ..... (A) red mulberry

**Oaks**

There are two broad groups of oaks, whiteoaks and red oaks. White oaks have leaves with rounded lobes and no bristles at the ends. Red oaks usually have leaves with small bristles at the ends of the lobes and the leaf apex. Although it is sometimes difficult to see the bristle-tips on the leaves, water oak and willow oak belong to the red oak group.

- 1. Leaves unlobed ..... 2
- 1. Leaves lobed, or with large rounded teeth ..... 4
- 2. Leaves evergreen, leathery, undersurface hairy; bark dark brown and blocky ..... (S) live oak
- 2. Leaves not evergreen or leathery, undersurface not hairy; bark grayish-brown ..... 3
- 3. Leaves linear, ½ to 1 inch wide ..... (A) willow oak
- 3. Leaves spatula-shaped, 1 to 2 inches wide; wider at tip (apex) than at base ..... (A) water oak
- 4. Leaf veins evenly spaced, almost parallel, with each vein ending in a large rounded tooth or shallow lobe; bark grayish-brown, becoming deeply furrowed ..... (CN) chestnut oak
- 4. Leaves deeply or irregularly lobed, leaf veins not evenly spaced ..... 5
- 5. Leaf tip (apex) and lobes usually rounded, if pointed, not bristle-tipped ..... 6
- 5. Leaf tip (apex) and lobes bristle-tipped ..... 8
- 6. Leaves leathery and rough to the touch, dark green, commonly 5-lobed with 2 large central lobes giving leaves a cross-like appearance; bark light to dark gray, with irregular fissures or narrow plates ..... (A) post oak
- 6. Leaves not leathery, smooth to the touch, some leaves with more than 5 lobes, not cross-shaped ..... 7

## Oaks (cont.)

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- 7. Leaves with 7 to 9 shallow to deep, rounded lobes, bright green, underside pale; bark light gray with scaly plates; acorn cap encloses  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{3}$  of nut .....(A) white oak
- 7. Leaves with 5 to 9 lobes, upper lobes often angular or slightly pointed, lower lobes smaller; bark light grayish brown, shallowly grooved with scaly ridges; acorn cap almost completely covers the nut; usually found on moist sites ..... (A) overcup oak
- 8. Leaves 3-lobed; lobes only on the upper half ..... 9
- 8. Leaves 5- to 11-lobed, lobes in lower and upper halves ..... 11
- 9. Leaf undersurface smooth, without hairs ..... (A) water oak
- 9. Leaf undersurface covered with yellowish to rusty-gray hairs ..... 10
- 10. Leaves large and leathery, narrow at base with broadly rounded lobes ..... (A) blackjack oak
- 10. Leaves bell-shaped, rounded base, lobes narrow and somewhat pointed ..... (A) southern red oak
- 11. Leaf undersurface covered with yellowish to rusty-gray hairs ..... 12
- 11. Leaf undersurface green and smooth, often with tufts of hair in the axils of veins ..... 14
- 12. Leaf base U-shaped, leaves irregularly 5 to 7 lobed, central lobe often elongated and curved; bark dark and blocky ..... (A) southern red oak
- 12. Leaf base of most leaves not U-shaped ..... 13
- 13. Leaves 5- to 7-lobed, leaves somewhat pagoda-shaped; bark gray to black, becoming flaky or scaly, resembling the bark of a black cherry tree ..... (SC) cherrybark oak
- 13. Leaf shape variable, with deep or shallow lobes, undersurface hair rubs off easily; buds large and angled, with wooly hair; bark thick, dark brown to nearly black, with deep, irregular fissures, inner bark orange ..... (A) black oak
- 14. Leaves deeply lobed, lobes extending halfway or more to the midrib ..... 15
- 14. Leaves more shallowly lobed, 7 to 11 lobes extending halfway or less to the midrib; leaf stems (petioles) often reddish; acorn cap shallow, appearing like “beanie cap”; bark gray with shallow grooves, often with light gray to white vertical streaks (“ski trails”) ..... (A) northern red oak
- 15. Leaves with 5 to 9 lobes, lobes often wider at the tip, with multiple bristle tips, acorn cap covers  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  of nut; bark gray-brown with shallow grooves, and no “ski trails” ..... (A) Shumard oak
- 15. Leaves with 7 to 9 lobes, lobes extending more than halfway to the midrib, broken twigs smell like cat urine; white to light brown hair on upper half of buds; bark gray-black and rough at base, gray with flat ridges and “ski trails” on upper trunk; acorn nut with thin, concentric grooves around tip ..... (CN) scarlet oak

## Hickories

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Hickories are divided into two broad groups, true hickories and pecan hickories. True hickories usually have 5 to 7 leaflets per leaf. Pecan hickories normally have 9 to 17 leaflets per leaf. The buds of true hickories have overlapping scales similar to fish scales. Pecan hickories have valvate buds (bud scales meet at the edges and do not overlap).

- 1. Leaves usually with 7 or fewer leaflets (occasionally 9); bud scales overlapping .....2
- 1. Leaves usually with 9 or more leaflets (occasionally 7); buds valvate (without overlapping scales) .....4
- 2. Leaves usually with 5 leaflets, occasionally 7 .....3
- 2. Leaves usually with 7 leaflets, occasionally 9, underside hairy; twigs stout; nuts 1 to 1½ inches, with thick husk ..... (A) mockernut hickory
- 3. Leaflets with tiny tufts of hair on tips of teeth; bark bluish gray and shaggy; nuts large with thick husk ..... (CN) shagbark hickory
- 3. Leaflets with smooth undersurfaces; bark with irregular diamond-shaped pattern, may be tight or scaly; nut  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 1¼ inch, oval or pear shaped (“pig-snout”) ..... (A) pignut hickory

**Hickories (cont.)**

- 
- 4. Leaves with 7 to 11 leaflets, usually 9; buds sulfur yellow; nut round, ¾ to 1 inch, slightly flattened with thin husk ..... (CN) bitternut hickory
  - 4. Leaves with 9 to 17 leaflets, usually 11 to 15; buds not sulfur yellow ..... 5
  - 5. Leaves with 9 to 17 leaflets, usually 11 to 15; nut oblong, 1½ to 2 inches long, grown commercially for its sweet taste ..... (A) pecan
  - 5. Leaves with 7 to 13 leaflets, usually 11, undersurface hairy; nut ¾ to 1 inch, flattened, husk thin with yellow scales; usually growing in moist areas ..... (SC) water hickory

**Maples**

- 
- 1. Leaf edges variously toothed between lobes ..... 2
  - 1. Leaf edges mostly smooth (entire) between lobes ..... 4
  - 2. Leaves simple ..... 3
  - 2. Leaves compound with 3 to 5, sometimes 7 leaflets ..... (CN) box elder
  - 3. Leaves deeply 5 lobed, lobes at base may be fairly small, undersurface silvery white, leaf edge coarsely, irregularly serrate ..... (A) silver maple
  - 3. Leaves more shallowly 3 to 5 lobed, undersurface light green or slightly chalky in appearance, leaf edge irregularly serrate ..... (A) red maple
  - 4. Leaf undersurface yellowish green, somewhat hairy ..... (C) chalk maple
  - 4. Leaf undersurface pale, chalky white in appearance ..... (SC) Florida maple

**Tupelos**

- 
- 1. Leaves 2 to 5 inches long; branches often at horizontal angle from trunk ..... (A) blackgum
  - 1. Leaves 5 to 10 inches long; trees usually have a swollen base; often growing beside bald cypress in standing water ..... (SC) water tupelo

**Elms**

- 
- 1. Twigs with corky ridges or wings, more prominent on dryer sites, sometimes rare on moist sites; leaves 1½ to 3 inches long; base only slightly uneven ..... (A) winged elm
  - 1. Twigs without wings; leaves usually 4 inches long or longer ..... 2
  - 2. Leaves rough on the upper surface; buds dark, hairy, and blunt ..... (NC) slippery elm
  - 2. Leaves smooth or rough on the upper surface; buds light brown and pointed ..... (A) American elm

**Ashes**

- 
- 1. Lateral buds positioned above a shield-shaped leaf scar ..... (A) green ash
  - 1. Lateral buds partly surrounded by a V-shaped leaf scar ..... (A) white ash

**Magnolias**

- 
- 1. Leaves leathery ..... 2
  - 1. Leaves not leathery ..... 3
  - 2. Leaves 5 to 8 inches, upper surface shiny dark green, undersurface usually covered with rusty red hair; flowers creamy white, lemon scented, 6 to 8 inches wide ..... (SC) southern magnolia
  - 2. Leaves 4 to 6½ inches, upper surface green, undersurface silver-white, crushed leaves spicy smelling; flowers creamy white, 2 to 3 inches; typically grows in moist areas ..... (SC) sweetbay magnolia
  - 3. Leaves 6 to 10 inches, upper surface yellowish green, soft hair on undersurface; flowers yellowish green, 2 to 3 inches; unripe fruit looks a bit like a tiny cucumber; scattered occurrence in moist woods and coves ..... (A) cucumber tree
  - 3. Leaves 20 to 30 inches, base heart-shaped or slightly lobed, upper surface green, undersurface somewhat chalky in appearance; flowers creamy white, 10 to 12 inches; scattered occurrence in moist woods and ravines ..... (SC) bigleaf magnolia

# Common Native Trees of Alabama

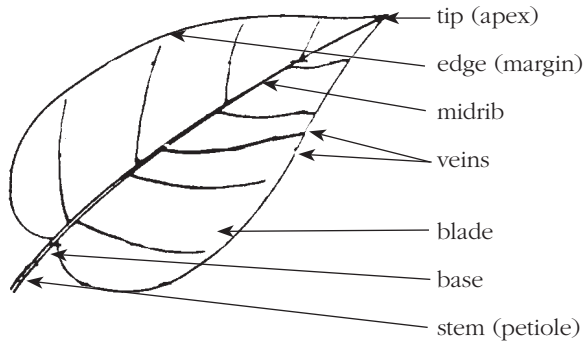
The following is a list of the trees included in the key. It is not a complete list of all trees found in the state. Trees are listed by preferred common name and scientific name (genus and species). Some trees are known by several different common names, but each has a unique scientific name. If you are not familiar with a common name used in this list or in the key, you may wish to find it in another reference by looking up the scientific name.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
Florida maple		shortleaf pine	<i>Pinus echinata</i>
or southern sugar maple	<i>Acer barbatum</i>	slash pine	<i>Pinus elliottii</i>
chalk maple	<i>Acer leucoderme</i>	spruce pine	<i>Pinus glabra</i>
boxelder	<i>Acer negundo</i>	longleaf pine	<i>Pinus palustris</i>
red maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	loblolly pine	<i>Pinus taeda</i>
silver maple	<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	Virginia pine	<i>Pinus virginiana</i>
buckeye	<i>Aesculus</i> spp.	sycamore	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>
river birch	<i>Betula nigra</i>	eastern cottonwood	<i>Populus deltoides</i>
American hornbeam,		black cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>
musclewood		white oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>
or blue beech	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	scarlet oak	<i>Quercus coccinea</i>
water hickory	<i>Carya aquatica</i>	southern red oak	<i>Quercus falcata</i>
bitternut hickory	<i>Carya cordiformis</i>	overcup oak	<i>Quercus lyrata</i>
pignut hickory	<i>Carya glabra</i>	blackjack oak	<i>Quercus marilandica</i>
pecan	<i>Carya illinoensis</i>	chestnut oak	<i>Quercus montana</i>
shagbark hickory	<i>Carya ovata</i>	water oak	<i>Quercus nigra</i>
mockernut hickory	<i>Carya tomentosa</i>	cherrybark oak	<i>Quercus pagoda</i>
southern catalpa	<i>Catalpa bignonioides</i>	willow oak	<i>Quercus pbellos</i>
sugarberry	<i>Celtis laevigata</i>	northern red oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>
eastern redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Shumard oak	<i>Quercus shumardii</i>
flowering dogwood	<i>Cornus florida</i>	post oak	<i>Quercus stellata</i>
common persimmon	<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	Nuttall oak,	
American beech	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	or Texas red oak	<i>Quercus texana</i>
white ash	<i>Fraxinus americana</i>	black oak	<i>Quercus velutina</i>
green ash	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	live oak	<i>Quercus virginiana</i>
honeylocust	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>	black locust	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>
American holly	<i>Ilex opaca</i>	sassafras	<i>Sassafras albidum</i>
black walnut	<i>Juglans nigra</i>	pond cypress	<i>Taxodium ascendens</i>
eastern redcedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	baldcypress	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>
sweetgum	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	basswood	<i>Tilia americana</i>
yellow-poplar or tuliptree		eastern hemlock	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>
or tulip-poplar	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	winged elm	<i>Ulmus alata</i>
cucumbertree	<i>Magnolia acuminata</i>	American elm	<i>Ulmus americana</i>
southern magnolia	<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	slippery elm	<i>Ulmus rubra</i>
bigleaf magnolia	<i>Magnolia macrophylla</i>		
sweetbay magnolia	<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>		
red mulberry	<i>Morus rubra</i>		
water tupelo	<i>Nyssa aquatica</i>		
black tupelo or blackgum	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>		
eastern hophornbeam	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>		
sourwood	<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>		

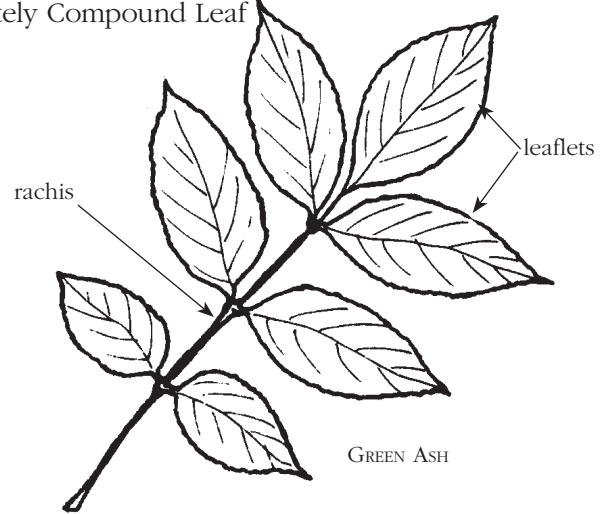
The tree identification key was adapted from *Guide To Southern Trees* by Ellwood S. Harrar and J. George Harrar; *Trees, Shrubs, & Woody Vines of East Texas* by Elray S. Nixon and Bruce L. Cunningham; *Forest Trees. A Guide to the Southeastern and Mid-Atlantic Regions of the United States* by Lisa J. Samuelson and Michael E. Hogan; and *Native Trees of the Southeast* by L. Katherine Kirkman, Claud L. Brown, and Donald J. Leopold.

# Leaf Types

## Simple Leaf



## Pinnately Compound Leaf



## Twice Pinnately Compound Leaf

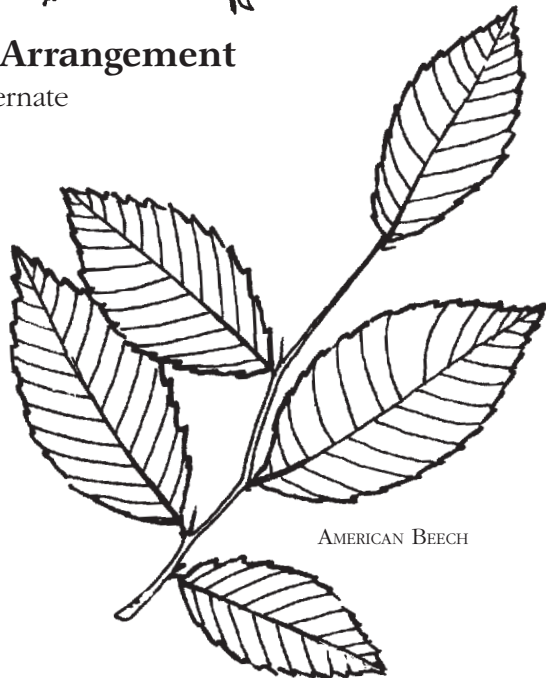


## Palmately Compound Leaf

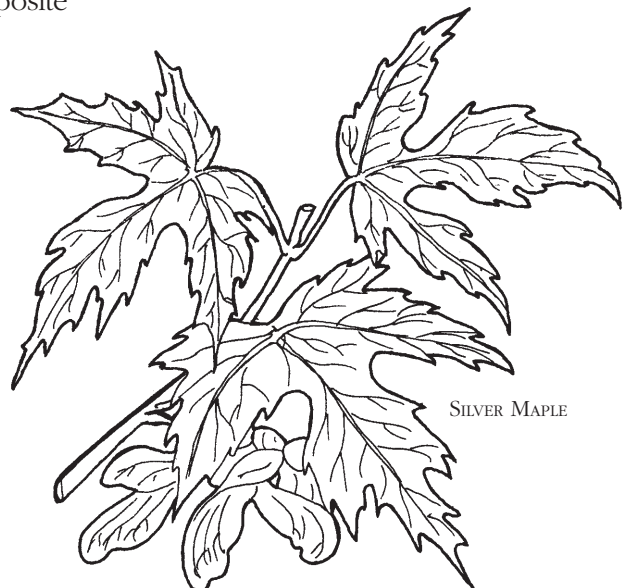


## Leaf Arrangement

### Alternate

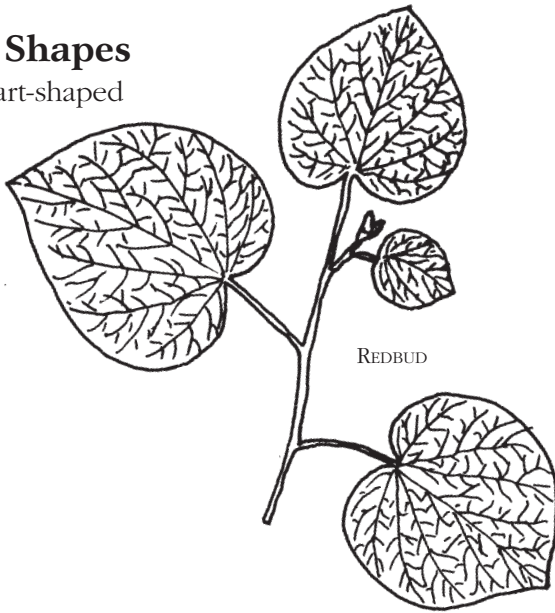


### Opposite



# Leaf Shapes

heart-shaped



REDBUD

linear



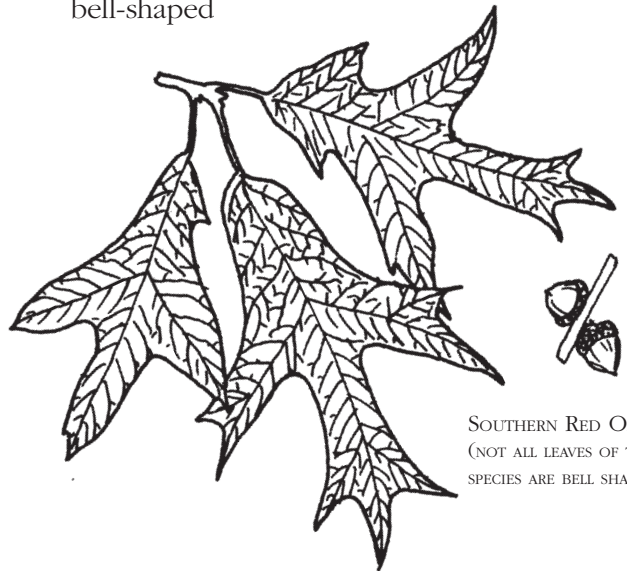
WILLOW OAK

spatula-shaped



WATER OAK

bell-shaped



SOUTHERN RED OAK  
(NOT ALL LEAVES OF THE SPECIES ARE BELL SHAPED)

cross-like



POST OAK

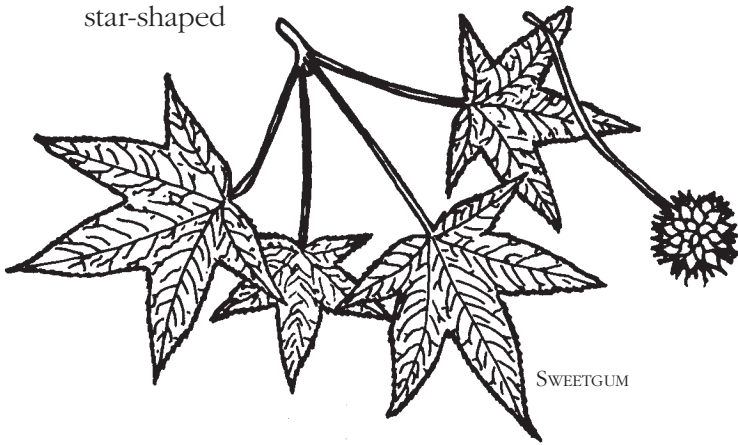
triangular



COTTONWOOD

# Leaf Shapes continued

star-shaped



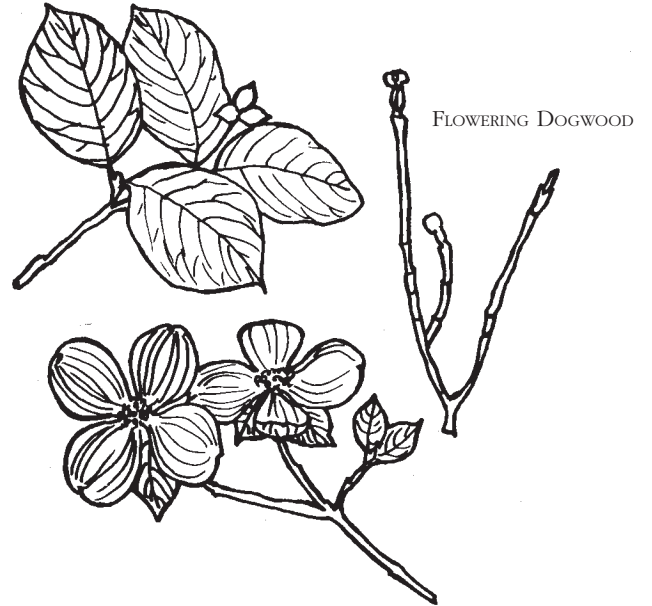
mitten-shaped



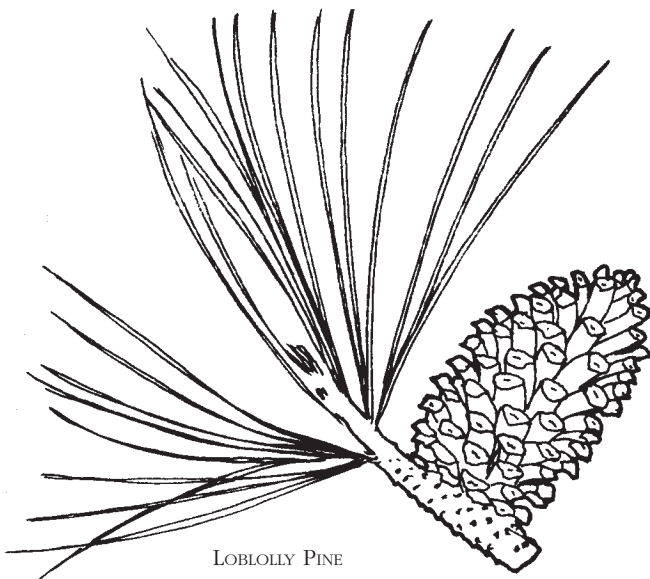
oblong



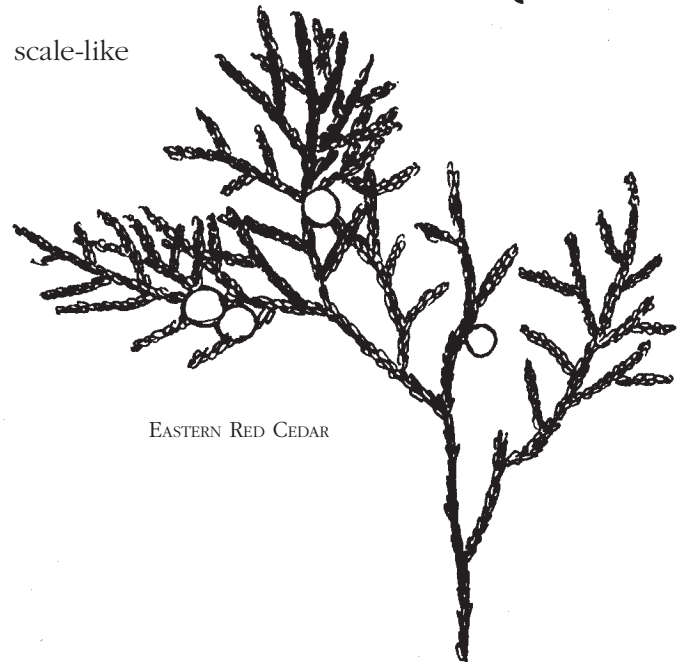
oval



needle-like

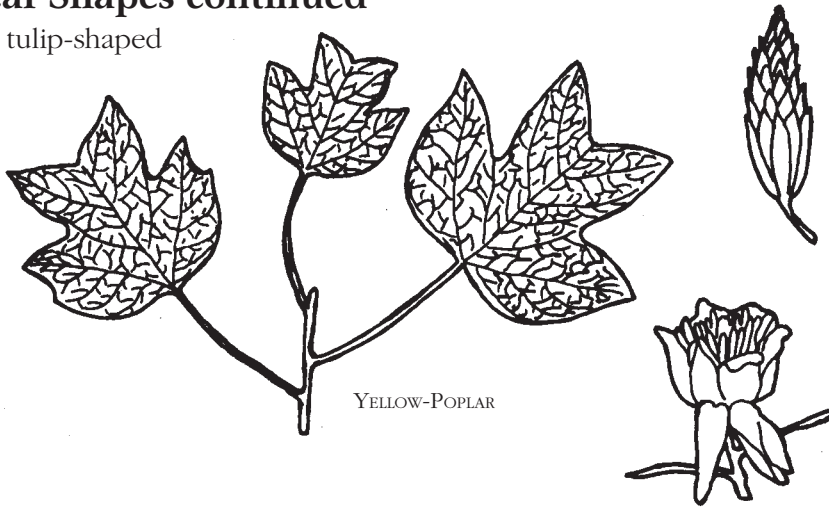


scale-like



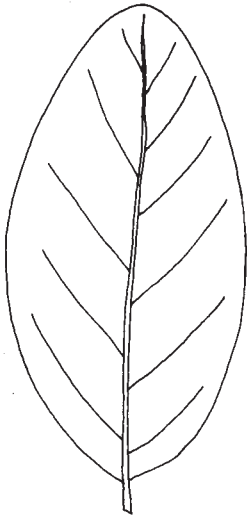
# Leaf Shapes continued

tulip-shaped

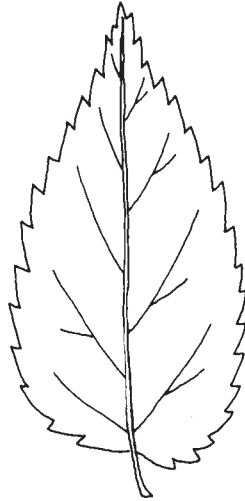


## Leaf Edges (Margins)

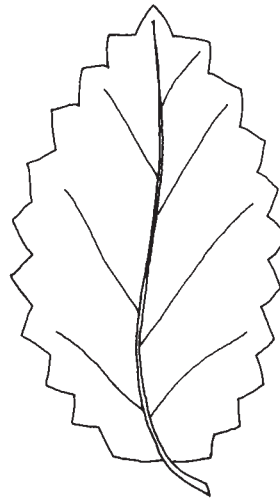
smooth (entire)



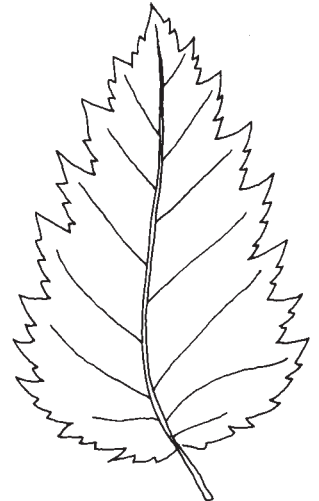
toothed (serrate)



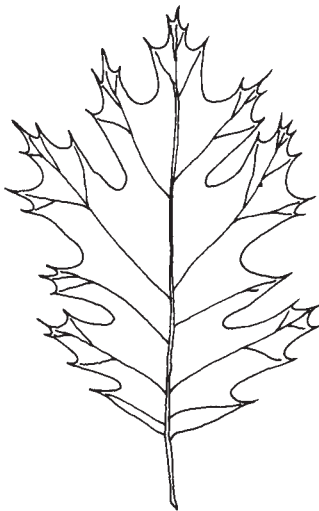
coarsely serrate



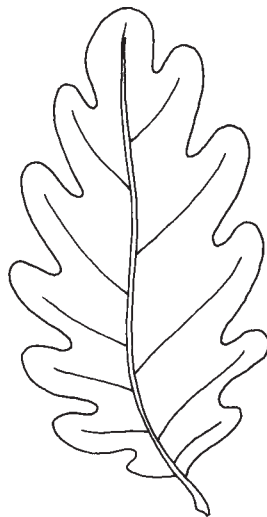
doubly serrate



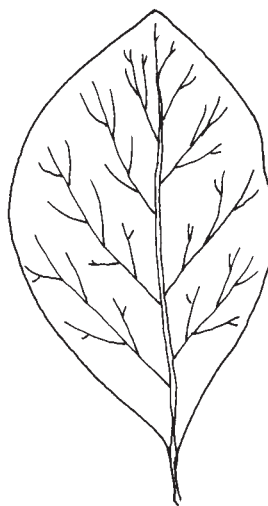
bristle-tipped

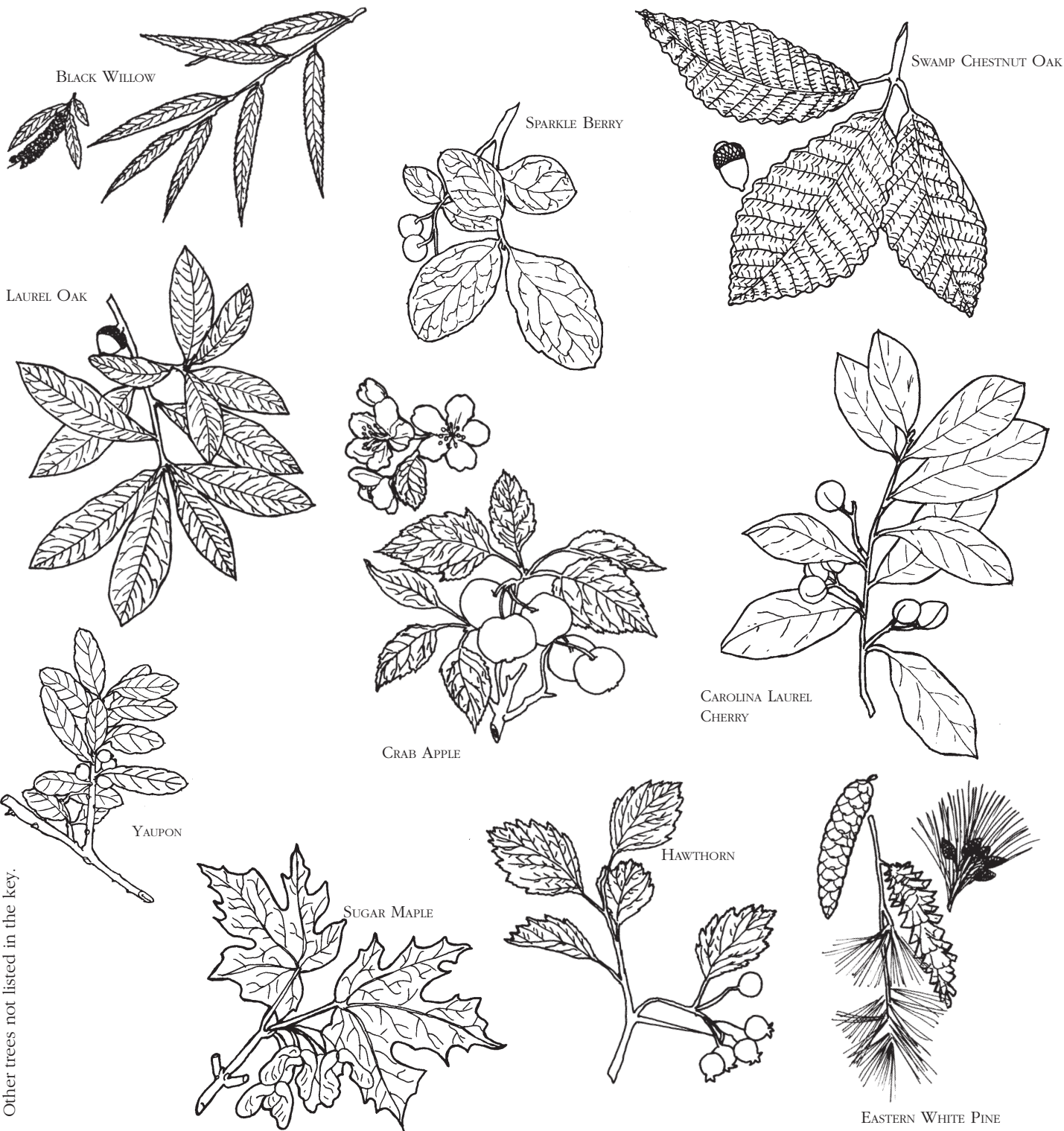


lobed

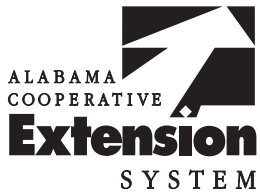


unlobed





Other trees not listed in the key.



**Nancy Loewenstein**, *Research Fellow IV and Extension Specialist*, Auburn University. Original version prepared by **Frank A. Roth II**, former *Forest Management Specialist*, and **Larkin H. Wade**, former *Extension Forester*. Illustrations by **Bruce Dupree**, *Extension Specialist, Art Design*, Auburn University, and **Romaine S. Crockett**, former *Extension Information Specialist, Art*.

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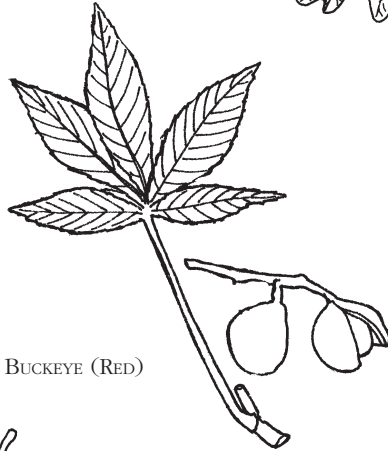
GREEN ASH



POST OAK



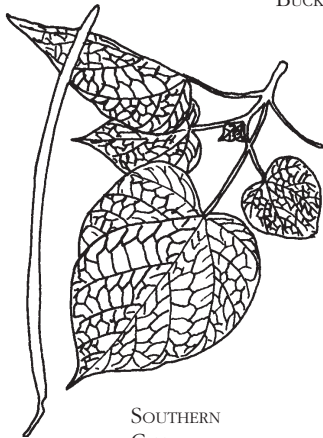
BLACK LOCUST



BUCKEYE (RED)



EASTERN HEMLOCK



SOUTHERN CATALPA

POND CYPRESS



BALDCYPRESS



BLACK OAK



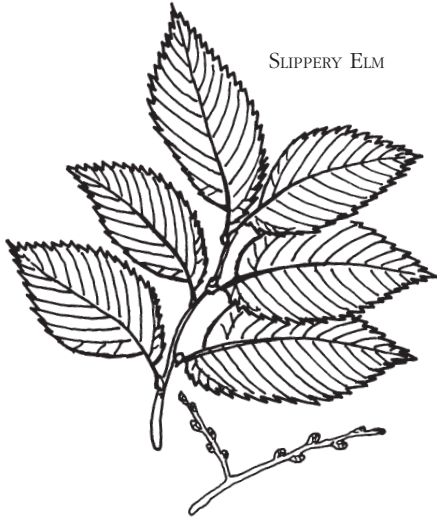
SWEETGUM



HONEYLOCUST



CHERRYBARK OAK



SLIPPERY ELM



SOURWOOD



BOXELDER



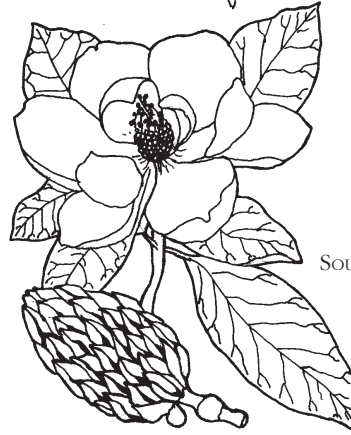
HACKBERRY



PECAN



BLACK CHERRY



SOUTHERN MAGNOLIA



PIGNOT HICKORY



NORTHERN RED OAK



LIVE OAK



WHITE ASH



AMERICAN BASSWOOD



BLACK TUPELO  
OR BLACKGUM



SASSAFRAS