

# Dendrology - Tree ID slides

Prepared by:  
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# river birch

Betulaceae

*Betula nigra*



Leaves somewhat diamond shaped;  
margins doubly-serrate



# river birch

Betulaceae

*Betula nigra*



distinctive bark, often peeling,  
especially on ornamental cultivars

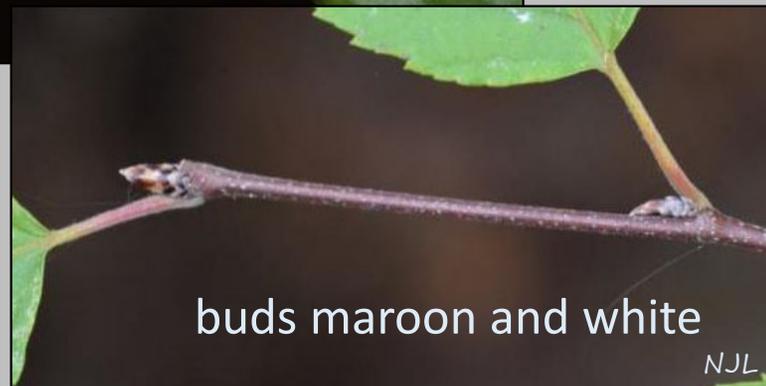
# American hornbeam, musclewood

Betulaceae

*Carpinus caroliniana*



Leaves doubly serrate, regular pinnate venation, veins go to margin with little, if any, branching



buds maroon and white

Bark smooth gray with twisted ridges, 'muscle'



# American hornbeam, musclewood

Betulaceae

*Carpinus caroliniana*



Fruit a nutlet with leafy 3-lobed bract, typically in clusters; turn brownish in the fall



usually small to mid-sized understory tree on moist sites, but can get fairly large

# flowering dogwood

Cornaceae

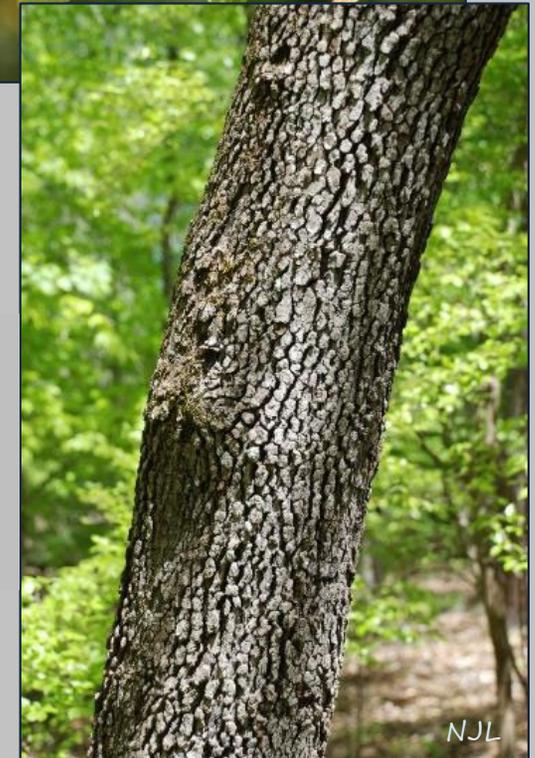
*Cornus florida*



Cluster of small flowers subtended by **four showy bracts**; early spring



Leaves opposite, oval to ovate, margins entire, **arcuate venation**



Bark dark brown, blocky

# eastern redcedar

Cupressaceae

*Juniperus virginiana*



Bark fibrous and shreddy, reddish brown turning grey when older and/or in the sun

Needles scale-like or awl-like (on juvenile growth)

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# bald cypress

Cupressaceae

*Taxodium distichum*



NJL



NJL



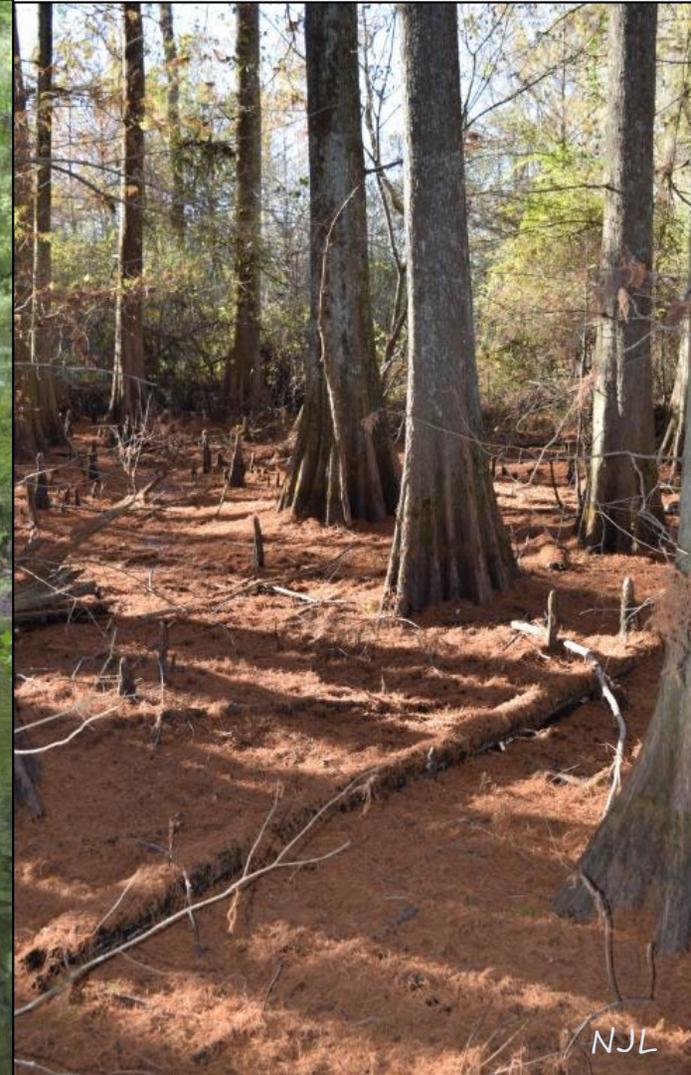
NJL

Leaves are deciduous, fall color reddish bronze

# bald cypress

Cupressaceae

*Taxodium distichum*



# eastern redbud

Fabaceae

*Cercis canadensis*



Bark thin and smooth, becoming shallowly ridged to scaly with age



Leaves alternate, cordate, margin entire; showy spring flowers appear before the leaves



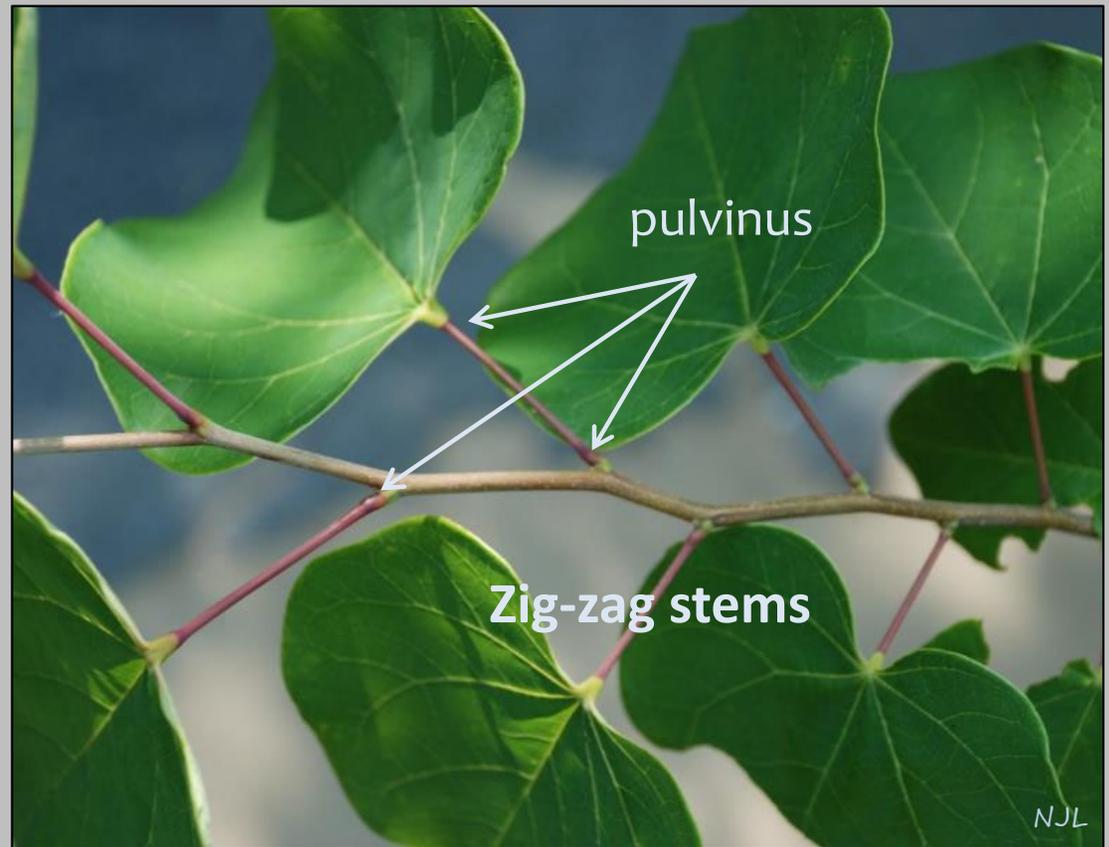
fruit a legume



**eastern redbud**

Fabaceae

*Cercis canadensis*



# yellow-poplar or tulip-poplar

Magnoliaceae

*Liriodendron tulipifera*



Leaves  
alternate,  
margins  
entire



bud valvate, with two bud  
scales, looks like a 'duck  
bill'

stipule scar forms circle  
around stem



Fruit – aggregate of samaras

# blackgum or black tupelo

Nyssaceae

*Nyssa sylvatica*



Margins are smooth, but **may** occasionally see a few teeth on some leaves; twigs have a true terminal bud; base of leaf often acute



three bundle scars

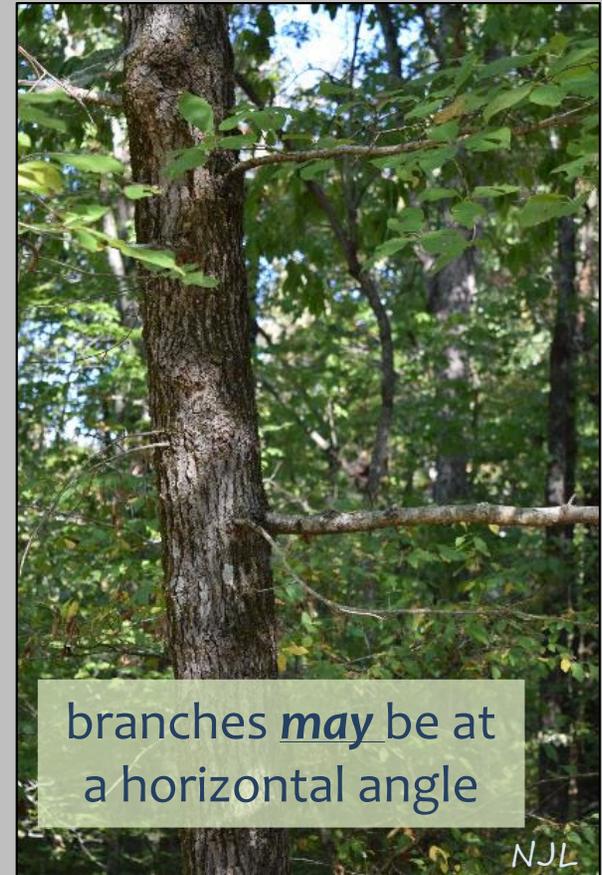


Fall color is bright red

# blackgum or black tupelo

Nyssaceae

*Nyssa sylvatica*



Plants are dioecious; 2-3 drupes per stalk ripen to dark bluish black in the fall.



Bark is somewhat blocky, but variable

**sycamore**

Platanaceae

*Platanus occidentalis*



Large palmately lobed leaves, large irregular teeth; stem zig-zag; leaf-like stipules (deciduous)

# sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)

FORY 3100 – Dendrology



distinctive exfoliating bark

# loblolly pine

Pinaceae

*Pinus taeda*



**Needles:** mostly *3 per fascicle*, 4-9 in, stiff but flexible, yellow-green to gray-green, *bundle sheath* ½ inch or greater

**Twigs:** red-brown, scaly, resinous



**Cones:** 3-5 in, gray-brown, in sets of 1 to 3, *armed with sharp prickle* (hurts to squeeze)





loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*)  
... sharp prickles!

# shumard oak (*Q. shumardii*)

**Broad leaves, lobes widest at the tips with 2-5 bristle-tipped teeth, sinuses >half-way to midrib, distinct axillary tufts below, base nearly truncate**



Franklin Bonner, Bugwood.org

**Cap thick with appressed scales, covering ~1/4 to 1/3 of nut**



**Buds slightly angled, pubescent, greyish brown or straw-colored**

## shumard oak (*Q. shumardii*)



**Form:** largest of the southern red oaks

**Site:** moist lowlands, and on upland limestone soils (may be dry and rocky)

**Note:** hybridizes freely with northern red and black oak ... may be hard to ID if all three are growing in the same area.



**Bark lighter than northern red or black oak; may have white streaks**

# Nuttall oak (*Q. texana*)



**Lobes often uneven and not symmetrical, base may also be uneven ... leaves may look somewhat 'stretched'; axillary tufts of hair below**

**Acorns fairly large, mature nut dark brownish maroon with stripes**



**early spring color**



**Bark is fairly smooth**

# red maple

Sapindaceae

*Acer rubrum*



Leaves opposite, margins serrate, 3-5 lobes, petioles *may* be reddish



fruit



flowers

Flowers and immature fruit are red; fall color ranges from yellows to reds



Bark variable - smooth and light to platy



**American elm**  
Ulmaceae  
*Ulmus americana*



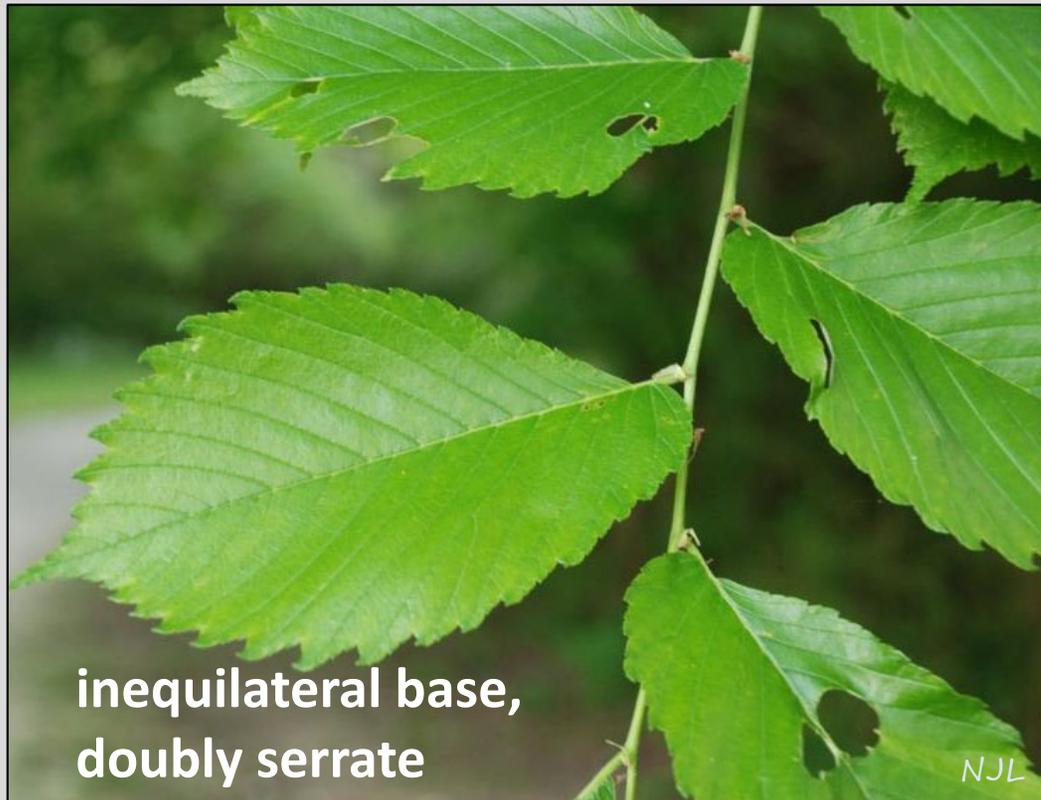
**Form: often vase-shaped**

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**Fruit: single samara, round, hairy margins with notch in tip, spring**



NJL



**inequilateral base,  
doubly serrate**

NJL



NJL