

pods; big

Birch

Weeping form

**White Pine** 

Pinus strobus

0000

per bundle

Virginia

per bundle

000

Tree has a strong

pyramidal shape

Eastern

Hemlock

on the undersides

Dawn Redwood

Metasequoia glyptostroboides

Pine

Scots

Pine

bundle and upper

Douglas-Fir

trunk is orange

Big-Tooth

Aspen

grandidentata

**Broom** 

Black

Pine

per bundle

Spruce

**Feather** 

Cucumber

Magnolia

Himalavan

from spur-like twias

Norway

Spruce

Cedar



Cedar

atlantica

American

Japanese

Cedar

Cryptomeria

slightly inward

Larch

Pitch

per bundle

000

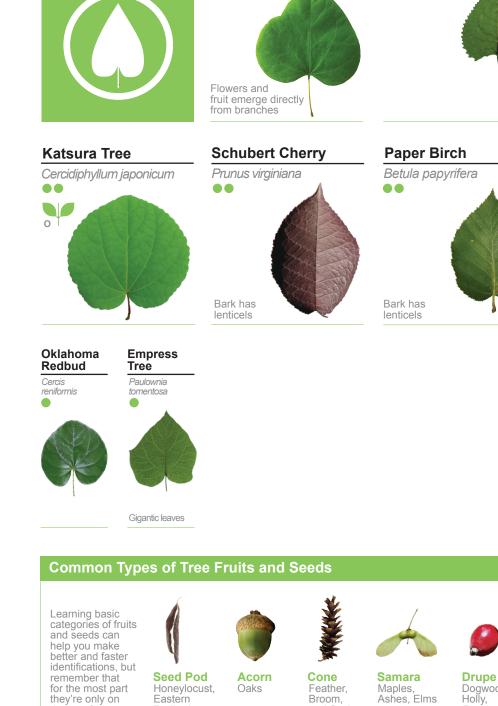
**Bald Cypress** 

Taxodium distichum

Tree has a strong

**English Yew** 

Pine



Eastern Redbud

Cercis canadensis

0000

Spade

**Eastern Cottonwood** 

000

Compound

Japanese Pagoda Tree 🜟

Styphnolobium japonicum

**Golden Raintree** 

Koelreuteria paniculata

Black

Walnut

000

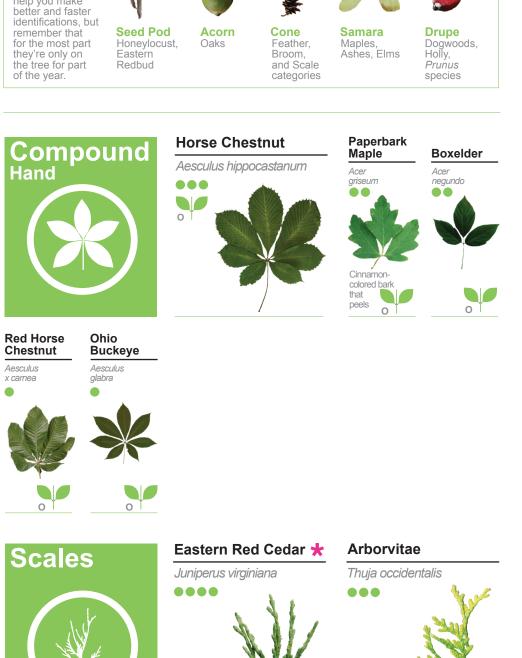
Irregular growth habit

Pignut

Hickory

Populus deltoides

000



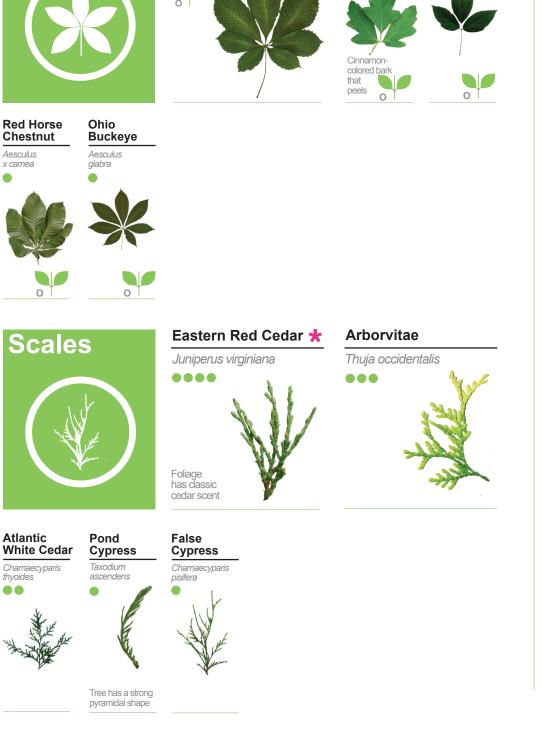






Image Sources: Kumar, Neeraj, Lawrence Barringer, Peter N. Belhumeur, Arijit Biswas, David W. Jacobs, W. John Kress, Ida C. Lopez, and João VB Soares. "Leafsnap: A Computer Vision System for Automatic Plant Species Identification." In Computer Vision–ECCV 2012, 502–16.

Springer, 2012. "Dendrology at Virginia Tech," June 2014. v Supplementary images sourced from Wikipedia Commons. For more information, please visit nyc.gov/parks.

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weeds threaten the health of street treesespecially during the first five years after they are planted. However, studies show that stewarding or caring for trees can make them three times more likely to survive (Boyce. 2010., Lu 2010). Learn about stewardship activities to help NYC's urban forest grow healthy and strong.

Black Locust

0000

Robinia pseudoacacia

Tree of Heaven

Ailanthus altissima

leaf smells awful

when bruised

Kentucky

Yellowwood

Smooth silver bark

Bitternut

Hickory

-

Ash

000

Mimosa

Honeylocust

Leaves are often

green or brown,

Green Ash

0000

doubly compound; tree may have long,

wisting bean pods

Fraxinus pennsylvanica

**Kentucky Coffeetree** 

Gymnocladus dioicus

000

branched wit

giant leaves

Cork Tree

Phellodendron

Maackia

var. inermis

0000

Watering is the most important thing you can do for your young street tree. Water your tree 15 to 20 gallons (three to four large buckets) once a week between May and October.

Keeping a tree bed free of litter not only helps beautify your street, it reduces the amount of

# stress placed on the plant

- Keep dog waste (both liquid and solid) away from the tree. Encourage dog owners to
- clean up any droppings within the tree bed. Keep garbage and de-icing salt out of the
- tree pit. Consider installing a tree guard or signage for your tree to discourage people from using it as a garbage receptacle.

- Weeds ultimately kill some plants and stress others if they grow too large. Weeds should be removed from street tree beds as frequently as possible.
- Wear gloves. When removing weeds, take out the entire root system. Leaving behind some of the plant will allow the weed to grow back. Use trowels or weeders to dig out stubborn roots.
- Put the plant and its roots into a garbage bag, or compost it.

### **Soil Cultivation**

Loosening the soil can help the tree absorb more water and oxygen.

To aerate the soil of your tree bed, take your hand cultivator and rough up the dirt 1 inch to 3 inches down. This will break up the compacted soil, and allow more water and oxygen to get down to the roots.

Boyce, Steven. 2010. "It Takes a Stewardship Village: Effect of Volunteer Tree Stewardship on Urban Tree Mortality Rates." Cities and the Environment. Vol 3. 1. 3.

Street Tree Mortality in New York City." Cities and the Environment. Vol 3. 1. 5.

Lu, Jacqueline W.T., Svendsen, Erika S, Campbell, Lindsay K., Greenfeld, Jennifer., Braden, Jesse., King, Kristen L., Falxa-Raymond, Nancy. 2010. "Biological, Social, and Urban Design Factors Affecting Young



## Adding a layer of mulch suppresses weed growth and helps insulate roots.

- Spread mulch to cover the whole tree bed. The layer should be no more than 2 inches high, and should not be touching the trunk of the tree. You should be able to put your fist between the mulch and the trunk.
- Adding a layer of compost also improves the soil and gives the tree important nutrients for growth. Check out the NYC Compost Project offered by the NYC Department of Sanitation.

When planted with a tree's health in mind, perennials, annuals and bulbs are great additions to a tree bed.

- We encourage residents to plant appropriate flowers and other vegetation in street tree beds. Not only do plantings beautify the neighborhood, they prevent soil compaction and help indicate when new trees need watering.
- Native perennials also help support local pollinators such as honeybees and monarch butterflies.

### Want to learn more? Volunteer to care for trees with the

NYC Parks Stewardship Program. Visit nyc.gov/parks/stewardship.











Liriodendron tulipifera

Bud has two parts

like a duck bill;

Batman leaves

Sassafras

Trees have three different

shapes of leaf

Shantung

Maple

Black

Maple

Sassafras albidum



Ginkgo

0000

Whorled leaf

0000

leaves have

**Tartar** 

Maple

milky sap in petiole

twigs are knobby

**Crimson King Maple** 

Acer platanoides 'Crimson King'

Trident

Maple

Ginkgo biloba



**Sugar Maple** 

Acer saccharum

Japanese Maple

Acer palmatum

Very fringy leaves

can be many

Turkish

Corylus

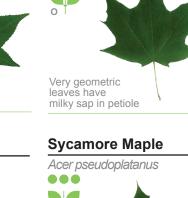
Hazelnut

colors; tree rarely

more than 25' tall

Maple

000



**Hedge Maple** 

Acer campestre

Has milky

sap in the petiole

with fuzzy

brown undersides

Norway Maple

fruits look like

conifer cones



Red Maple

Acer rubrum

0000





Undersides of

leaves are pale

to silvery white



leaf shapes into 11 broad categories, indicated in green squares.

How to Use This Guide

(1) Common Name

(2) Species Name

(4) Leaf Arrangement

(3) Frequency

(5) Leaf Image

(6) ID Tips

**(7)** Top 24

(1) Common Name

(2) Species Name

(3) Frequency

• • • • Frequent

Common

Uncommon

Trees that are especially rare are given smaller squares on the page. All

of the same information

is given. High five your

The main body of the leaf

Where the leaf blade

curves in towards the

Lobe

one of these!

team whenever you find

Rare

You may know some species by a slighly different name. There's great variation in common names. Please

use the common names we've provided.

This is the unique, unvarying name that

scientists use to refer to a species.

The green dots give an indication of

how likely you are to see a tree of this

species in the parks of New York City.

**Norway Maple** 

Acer platanoides

Very geometric

sap in petiole

leaves have milky

(4) Leaf Arrangement

(5) Leaf Image

This icon appears whenever leaves join

directly across from each other on a twig

in an **Opposite** branching pattern. While

leaf shape varies within a species, the

Leaf Arrangement is always the same.

The leaf photos are a jumping off point

for your identification. Use them to

narrow down your guesses but don't worry if the leaf in your hand doesn't look exactly like the leaf on the page. Leaves on the same tree can vary

based on their age and location on a

hone in on the details that matter.

and branching shape may also

The 24 most common park trees

name, and they're repeated on the front and back covers of this guide

of New York City have a star by their

When the leaf blade makes a contour towards

The primary vein leading

through the center of the

The stem-like part of the

leaf that joins to the twig

0

another.

Opposite

Leaves join the

across from one

leaf blade to the twig

the midrib

Midrib

Alternate v Opposite

learn in order to quickly narrow down

be different shapes on different parts

of a tree or on two trees of the same

species, but Leaf Arrangement never

changes. These are the two main

arrangements you will see:

potential ID matches. Leaves may

(6) ID Tips

(7) Top 24 🛣

be helpful.

branch, and trees of the same species may have very different leaves from one

Use these notes to help you distinguish between trees with similar leaves.

For some species the fruits, seeds, bark,

0000

0



Some leaves may blur the boundaries between categories, so if you're not confident in your ID check to see if it's listed n a different category.

Using Leaves to Identify Trees



The petiole joins to the twig. Most NYC street trees have simple leaves.





Alternate

Leaves alternate

the left and right

sides of the twig.

Leaf Margin







(Dentate or Serrate)



### Simple versus Compound

Pay attention to where the **bud** is located on your tree. This will tell you if you're looking at a tree with simple or





Leaflets ioin along a central stalk, which attaches to the twig.



Compound Leaflets all join at the same point on a shape of a leaf, look at the margin for additional clues.

Leaf Margin is the term for the characteristics of a leaf at the edges.

