A Key to Common Trees of Alabama

ANR-0509
A Key to Common Trees of Alabama

This key can help you easily identify any of the 66 most common 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. Leaf and bark characteristics are the primary features used for identifying trees.

A listing of the common and scientific names for the 66 native 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.
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

1. Leaves needle-like ................................................................. 2
1. Leaves scale-like, sometimes pointed on the end and prickly to the touch; bark reddish-brown and fibrous; cones look like bluish-gray berries about ⅛ inch in diameter; cones occur only on female trees ........................................... eastern redcedar

2. Needles attached to the twig in bundles or clusters ............................................. 3
2. Needles attached to the twig separately, not in bundles or clusters ........................................ 4
3. Needles in bundles or clusters of 2 or 3 ........................................ see Yellow Pines
3. Needles in bundles or clusters of 5, 3 to 5 inches long, bluish-green ................................ eastern white pine

4. Needles yellow-green, ⅛ to ⅓-inch long; foliage has a feather-like appearance and falls off in the winter; bark fibrous, scaly, reddish brown but weathers to ash-gray, cones rounded like a ball; tree are found most commonly in swamps ..................................... baldcypress

4. Needles are borne on short stalks which remain on the twig when needles fall off, shiny-green above with 2 white stripes underneath, 1/3- to 1/2-inch long; cones light-brown, borne on the ends of the branches; trees evergreen; drooping branches may hang to the ground ..................................... eastern hemlock

Yellow Pines

1. Needles in bundles or clusters of 3 .................................................. 2
1. Needles in bundles or clusters of 2 or 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 ................................ loblolly pine
2. Needles 8 to 18 inches long; cones large in size, 6 to 10 inches long; seedlings look like clumps of grass ........................................ longleaf pine
3. Needles in bundles or clusters of 2 and 3 on the same tree ............................................. 4
3. Needles in bundles or clusters of 2, 1 to 3 inches long ............................................. 5
4. Needles small in size, 3 to 5 inches long; cones 1 to 3 inches long ................................ shortleaf pine
4. Needles usually 8 to 12 inches long; cones 2 to 6 inches long ................................ slash pine
5. Needles stout, yellow-green, twisted; cones 1 to 2 inches long and cone shaped; branches reddish; usually a very limby tree often used as a Christmas tree .............................................................. Virginia pine
5. Needles slender, dark green, twisted; cones 1 to ⅔ inches long and rounded; bark silver-gray, furrowed, more like the bark of a hardwood than a pine; trees usually found in stream bottoms ................................ spruce pine
### Hardwoods

1. Leaves and buds opposite ................................................................. 2
2. Leaves and buds alternate ............................................................... 7
3. Leaves compound ............................................................................. 3
4. Leaves simple ................................................................................. 5
5. Leaves pinnately compound ........................................................... 4
6. Leaves palmately compound ............................................................ 5
7. Leaflet edges smooth (entire), not toothed ...................................... see *Ashes*
8. Leaflet edges toothed (serrate) ......................................................... see *Maples*
9. Leaves not lobed ............................................................................... 6
10. Leaves lobed ................................................................................... 8
11. Leaves heart-shaped ........................................................................ see *southern catalpa*
12. Leaves oval-shaped with a pointed tip .............................................. flowering dogwood
13. Leaves compound ......................................................................... 11
14. Leaves simple ................................................................................ 12
15. Leaflet edges smooth (entire), not toothed ..................................... 9
16. Leaflet edges finely toothed (serrate) .............................................. 10
17. Leaves once pinnately compound; twigs armed with unbranched thorns ........................................... 11
18. Leaves once and twice pinnately compound; twigs armed with branched thorns, commonly 3-branched ........................................... 19
19. Leaves with 15 to 23 leaflets; fruit a yellow-green ball 1 1/2 to 2 inches in diameter; bark gray-brown to black ................................... black walnut
20. Leaves with 5 to 17 leaflets, usually 15 or less ................................ see *Hickories*
21. Leaf edges armed with sharp spines; fruit a red berry; tree evergreen .................................................. American holly
22. Leaf edges not armed with sharp spines .......................................... 17
23. Twigs with narrow lines circling them near the place where each leaf is attached ............................................................... see *Magnolias*
24. Twigs without narrow lines circling them .................................... 18
25. Twigs with terminal buds at the ends ............................................. 19
26. Twigs without terminal buds at the ends; fruit an orange to reddish purple berry; bark looks like the back of an alligator .............. common persimmon
27. Leaf stem (petiole) which attaches leaf blade to twig less than 1/2 inch long .............................................. see *Oaks*
28. Leaf stem (petiole) which attaches leaf blade to twig 1 to 2 inches long .................................................. see *Tupelos*
### Hardwoods (cont.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20.</td>
<td>Leaves not lobed</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.</td>
<td>Leaves lobed</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.</td>
<td>Twigs with terminal buds at the ends</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.</td>
<td>Twigs without terminal buds at the ends</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.</td>
<td>Primary veins extending from midrib to leaf margin</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.</td>
<td>Primary veins uniting within leaf blade</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23.</td>
<td>Leaves triangular; buds brown and less than (\frac{1}{4})-inch long; bark at first yellowish green, smooth and thin, becoming thick gray and deeply furrowed</td>
<td>eastern cottonwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23.</td>
<td>Leaves oblong to oval-shaped; buds brown, about 1 inch long and needle-like; bark thin, smooth, and gray, does not change with age; favorite tree bark for carving initials</td>
<td>American beech</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24.</td>
<td>Leaf edges very finely toothed (serrate)</td>
<td>black cherry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24.</td>
<td>Leaf edges coarsely toothed (serrate)</td>
<td>see Oaks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.</td>
<td>Leaf edges simply serrate or dentately serrate</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.</td>
<td>Leaf edges doubly serrate</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.</td>
<td>Leaf edges simply serrate; leaves somewhat heart-shaped, 2 to 4 inches long and 1 to 2 inches wide; bark gray-brown with corky warts</td>
<td>hackberry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.</td>
<td>Leaf edges dentately serrate; leaves 3 to 5 inches long and 2 to 3 inches wide with a heart-shaped or flattened base; bark grayish-brown and deeply furrowed with scaly ridges</td>
<td>American basswood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.</td>
<td>Bark reddish brown on very young stems and scaly or papery on older stems</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.</td>
<td>Bark bluish gray to brownish gray and smooth or furrowed</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28.</td>
<td>Bark turning white to salmon-pink and papery with age</td>
<td>river birch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28.</td>
<td>Bark turning gray to brown and scaly with age</td>
<td>eastern hophornbeam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29.</td>
<td>Bark bluish gray, tight, thin and smooth with a muscular appearance</td>
<td>American hornbeam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29.</td>
<td>Bark ash-gray to brownish gray and furrowed</td>
<td>see Elms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30.</td>
<td>Leaves star-shaped or nearly so</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30.</td>
<td>Leaves mitten-shaped, 3-lobed and unlobed on the same tree</td>
<td>red mulberry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31.</td>
<td>Leaf edges finely toothed (serrate); twigs often have corky wings; bark gray to gray-brown and deeply furrowed</td>
<td>sweetgum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31.</td>
<td>Leaf edges irregularly toothed; twigs have a zigzag shape; bark creamy white to brown and smooth to scaly</td>
<td>sycamore</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Oaks

Oaks are divided into two broad groups: white oaks 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Leaf edges smooth (entire)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Leaf edges distinctly toothed or lobed</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Leaf edges rolled under; undersurface hairy</td>
<td>live oak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Leaf edges not rolled under; undersurface not hairy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Leaves linear, (\frac{1}{2}) to 1 inch wide</td>
<td>willow oak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Leaves spatula-shaped, 1 to 2 inches wide; wider at the tip (apex) than at the base</td>
<td>water oak</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Oaks (cont.)

4. Leaf tip (apex) and lobes usually rounded, if pointed not bristle-tipped ........................................5
4. Leaf tip (apex) and lobes usually bristle-tipped .................................................................8
5. Leaf veins evenly spaced with each vein terminating in a lobe;
   leaf edges shallowly and evenly lobed; bark dark brown to black ...................................... chestnut oak
5. Leaf veins not evenly spaced; leaf edges deeply or irregularly lobed ........................................6
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 thick, gray, blocky, or scaly .................................................................post oak
6. Leaves not leathery, smooth to the touch; some leaves with more
   than 5 lobes, not cross-like .........................................................................................7
7. Leaves deeply and regularly lobed, 7 to 9 lobes, bright green;
   bark light gray and scaly; large acorns with cup enclosing one-fourth of nut ..................white oak
7. Leaves irregularly lobed and extremely variable, 5 to 9 lobes,
   dark green; bark gray brown, thick and rough; acorn cup almost
   completely encloses the nut ..................................................................................overcup oak
8. Leaves 3-lobed; lobes only in the upper half .......................................................................9
8. Leaves 5- to 11-lobed, lobes in lower and upper halves .......................................................11
9. Leaf undersurfaces smooth, without hairs .............................................................................water oak
9. Leaf undersurfaces covered with rusty red or orange hairs ..................................................10
10. Leaves large; lobes broadly rounded ...............................................................................blackjack oak
10. Leaves bell-shaped; lobes narrow and somewhat pointed .................................................southern red oak
11. Trees found on dry upland sites ......................................................................................12
11. Trees found on moist sites, mainly in creek or river bottoms ...........................................15
12. Leaf undersurface covered with rusty red hair; leaves irregular,
   5- to 7-lobed southern ........................................................................................red oak
12. Leaf undersurface green and smooth, often with tufts of hair in
   the axils of principal veins, leaves more uniform ........................................................13
13. Leaves dull green, 7- to 11-lobed; acorn cup saucer-shaped
   enclosing less than one-fourth of the nut .........................................................northern red oak
13. Leaves shiny green, 5 to 7-lobed (rarely 9-lobed); acorn cup
   bowl-shaped enclosing half of nut .........................................................................14
14. Leaves dark green, 5- to 7-lobed; bark dark brown to black, thick
   and furrowed; inner bark orange-yellow; buds large, coated with
   gray woolly hair ................................................................................................black oak
14. Leaves light green, 7-lobed (rarely 9-lobed); bark gray-brown to
   black, broken into irregular ridges, inner bark reddish; buds
   smaller, covered with fine dark brown hair ................................................................scarlet oak
15. Leaf undersurface covered with grayish white to light brown hair;
   bark gray to black, flaky or scaly, resembling the bark of a cherry tree ....................cherrybark oak
15. Leaf undersurface green and smooth, often with tufts of hair in
   the axils of principal veins; bark not resembling the bark of a cherry tree ................16
16. Bark whitish gray with scaly ridges separated by furrows;
   acorn cup saucer-shaped enclosing less than one-fourth of nut ................................Shumard oak
16. Bark dark gray-brown, broken into flat ridges; acorn cup
   bowl-shaped enclosing half of nut ...................................................................Nuttall oak
**Hickories**

Hickories are divided into two broad groups, true hickories and pecan hickories. True hickories usually have five to seven leaflets per leaf. Pecan hickories normally have nine 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); buds covered with overlapping scales .................................2
2. Leaves usually with 7 to 11 leaflets, usually 9; buds sulfur-yellow ...........................................bitternut hickory
3. Leaflets with hairy undersurfaces; bark bluish gray to gray and shaggy ................................shagbark hickory
4. Leaves with 7 to 17 leaflets, usually 11 to 15; fruit a round, oblong, smooth nut, grown commercially for its sweet taste ......................................................pecan
5. Leaves with 7 to 13 leaflets, usually 11; fruit a flattened, rough, bitter nut ................................................water hickory

1. Leaves usually with 9 or more leaflets (occasionally 7); buds valvate (without overlapping scales) ...........................................4
2. Leaves usually with 5 leaflets, occasionally 7 .................................................................mockernut hickory
3. Leaves usually with 7 leaflets, occasionally 9 .................................................................3
4. Leaves with 7 to 17 leaflets, usually 11 to 15; buds not sulfur-yellow .................................5
5. Leaves with 9 to 17 leaflets, usually 11 to 15; fruit a round, oblong, smooth nut, grown commercially for its sweet taste ...................................................pecan

**Maples**

1. Leaf edges variously toothed between lobes .................................................................2
2. Leaf undersurface shiny (glabrous) .................................................................red maple
3. Leaf undersurface silvery .................................................................silver maple

1. Leaf edges mostly smooth (entire) between lobes .................................................................sugar maple

**Tupelos**

1. Leaves 2 to 5 inches long; fruit usually in clusters of 2 or 3 .................................................................blackgum
2. Leaves 5 to 10 inches long; fruit solitary; trees usually have a swelled base; often growing beside cypress in standing water .................................................................water tupelo

**Elms**

1. Twigs with corky ridges or wings, more prominent on dryer sites, sometimes rare on moist sites; small, leaf ½ to 3½ inches long ..............................................winged elm
2. Twigs without wings; leaves usually 4 inches long or longer ...............................................2
3. Leaves rough on the upper surface .................................................................slippery elm
4. Leaves smooth on the upper surface .................................................................American elm

**Ashes**

1. Leaves lustrous green above and below; lateral buds positioned above a shield-shaped leaf scar .................................................................green ash
2. Leaves pale green above, sometimes silvery below; lateral buds partly surrounded by a U-shaped leaf scar .................................................................white ash

**Magnolias**

1. Leaves leathery, upper surface shiny bright green, undersurface covered with rusty red wooly hair; flowers large, white, 6 to 8 inches wide..............southern magnolia
2. Leaves not leathery, upper surface yellow-green, undersurface sometimes hairy; flowers bell-shaped, greenish yellow, 2 to 3 inches wide. .................cucumbertree
The following is a list of 66 trees that are found in Alabama. 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>boxelder</td>
<td>Acer negundo L.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>red maple</td>
<td>Acer rubrum L.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>silver maple</td>
<td>Acer saccharinum L.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sugar maple</td>
<td>Acer saccharum Marsh.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>buckeye (red)</td>
<td>Aesculus spp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>river birch</td>
<td>Betula nigra L.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American hornbearn</td>
<td>Carpinus caroliniana Walt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or blue beech</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>water hickory</td>
<td>Carya aquatica (Michx. f.) Nutt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bitternut hickory</td>
<td>Carya cordiformis (Wangen.) K. Koch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pignut hickory</td>
<td>Carya glabra (Mill.) Sweet K. Koch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pecan</td>
<td>Carya illinoinsis (Wangen.) K. Koch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shagbark hickory</td>
<td>Carya ovata (Mill.) K. Koch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mockernut hickory</td>
<td>Carya tomentosa (Poir.) Nutt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>southern catalpa</td>
<td>Catalpa bignonioides Walt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hackberry</td>
<td>Celtis occidentalis L.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eastern redbud</td>
<td>Cercis canadensis L.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>flowering dogwood</td>
<td>Cornus florda L.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>common persimmon</td>
<td>Diospyros virginiana L.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American beech</td>
<td>Fagus grandifolia Ehrh.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>white ash</td>
<td>Fraxinus americana L.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>green ash</td>
<td>Fraxinus pennsylvanica Marsh.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>honeylocust</td>
<td>Gleditsia triacanthos L.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American holly</td>
<td>Illex opaca Ait</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>black walnut</td>
<td>Juglans nigra L.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eastern redbud</td>
<td>Juniperus virginiana L.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>flowering dogwood</td>
<td>Liquidambar styraciflua L.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yellow-poplar or tuliptree</td>
<td>Liriodendron tulipifera L.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or tulip-poplar</td>
<td>Magnolia acuminata L.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>southern magnolia</td>
<td>Magnolia grandiflora L.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>red mulberry</td>
<td>Morus rubra L.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>water tupelo</td>
<td>Nyssa aquatica L.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>black tupelo or blackgum</td>
<td>Nyssa sylvestica Marsh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eastern hophornbeam</td>
<td>Ostrya virginiana (Mill.) K. Koch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or American hophornbeam</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shortleaf pine</td>
<td>Pinus echinata Mill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>slash pine</td>
<td>Pinus elliotti Engelm.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

American basswood       | Pinus glabra Walt.                     |
longleaf pine           | Pinus palustris Mill.                   |
eastern white pine      | Pinus strobus L.                          |
lobolly pine            | Pinus taeda L.                               |
Virginia pine           | Pinus virginiana Mill.                   |
sycamore                | Platanus occidentalis L.                 |
eastern cottonwood      | Populus deltoides Bartr. ex Marsh.        |
black cherry            | Prunus serotina Ehrh.                   |
white oak               | Quercus alba L.                             |
scarlet oak             | Quercus coccinea Muenchh.                 |
water oak               | Quercus falcata Michx.                   |
southern red oak        | Quercus pagoda Raf. (formerly known as Quercus falcata var. pagodaefolia Ell.)  |
cherrybark oak          | Quercus lyrata Walt.                     |
water oak               | Quercus nigra L.                             |
Nuttall oak             | Quercus marilandica Muenchh.             |
willow oak              | Quercus phellos L.                         |
chestnut oak            | Quercus prinus L.                              |
water oak               | Quercus rubra L.                              |
northern red oak        | Quercus shumardii Buckl.                 |
Shumard oak             | Quercus stellata Wangen.                  |
post oak                | Quercus velutina Lam.                   |
black oak               | Quercus virginiana Mill.                |
live oak                | Robinia pseudoacacia L.                    |
sassafras               | Sassafras albidum (Nutt.) Nees             |
baldcypress             | Taxodium distichum var. distichum (L.) Rich. (formerly known as Taxodium distichum (L.) Rich) |
American basswood       | Tilia americana L.                         |
eastern hemlock         | Tsuga canadensis (L.) Carr.               |
ingled elm               | Ulmus alata Michx.                        |
American elm            | Ulmus americana L.                         |
slippery elm            | Ulmus rubra Muhl.                           |

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; and Forest Trees. A Guide to the Southeastern and Mid-Atlantic Regions of the United States by Lisa J. Samuelson and Michael E. Hogan.

A Key to Common Trees of Alabama 9
**Leaf Types**

*Simple Leaf*

- tip (apex)
- edge (margin)
- veins
- blade
- base
- stem (petiole)

*Twice Pinnately Compound Leaf*

*Pinnately Compound Leaf*

*Palmately Compound Leaf*

**Leaf Arrangement**

*Alternate*

- American Beech

*Opposite*

- Red Buckeye
- Silver Maple
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

triangular

Post oak

COTTONWOOD
Leaf Shapes continued

star-shaped

mitten-shaped

*Sweetgum*

Red Mulberry
(not all leaves of the species are mitten-shaped)

*Oblong*

*Oval*

*Magnolia*

*needle-like*

*scale-like*

*Eastern Red Cedar*

*Loblolly Pine*
Leaf Shapes continued

tulip-shaped

Leaf Edges (Margins)

- smooth (entire)
- toothed (serrate)
- dentately serrate
- doubly serrate
- bristle-tipped
- lobed
- unlobed
LAUREL OAK
MIMOSA
HAWTHORN
RED HICKORY
CHINESE ELM
SWEET BAY
YAUPON
WEEEPING WILLOW
BLACK WILLOW
SILVER POPLAR
DEODAR CEDAR
ATLANTIC-WHITE CEDAR
LUMBARDY POPLAR
CHINA FIR

Other common trees not listed in the key.

Becky Barlow, Extension Specialist, Assistant Professor, Forestry, Wildlife, and Natural Resource Management, Auburn University. Originally prepared by Frank A. Roth II, former Forest Management Specialist, and Larkin H. Wade, former Extension Forester. Illustrations by Romaine S. Crockett, former Extension Information Specialist/Art.

For more information, call your county Extension office. Look in your telephone directory under your county’s name to find the number.

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A Key to Common Trees of Alabama

Pin Oak

Cabbage Palm

Park Sl Friscb

Norway Maple

Sourwood

Swamp Chestnut Oak

Painted Buckeye

Butternut

Cherry Laurel

Cranberry

Swamp Chestnut Oak

Sapling Berry

Cherry

Cabbage Palm

Ginkgo

Chestnut

Norway Maple
Slippery Elm
Sassafras
Boxelder
Sugar Maple
Live Oak
Southern Magnolia
Black Tupelo or Blackgum
American Basswood
White Ash
Hackberry
Northern Red Oak
Black Cherry
Pignut Hickory
Flowering Dogwood
Black Oak
Cherrybark Oak
Pecan
Wishing Well
Hickory