Sugar Maple



Sugar maple trees have light brown to gray bark with long deep furrows on older trees. The leaves have pointed lobes and turn beautiful shades of red, orange, and yellow in fall. The fruits are **samaras** (have wings) and spin like helicopters in the wind. Sugar maple trees are the primary source of maple syrup. Sugar maple wood is used for basketball courts, baseball bats, bowling pins and musical instruments.

Red Spruce



The red spruce is an evergreen that has scaly gray-brown bark with reddish grooves. The needles are short and curve inward toward the branch. The cones are small, about 1 to 1.5 inches long. Red Spruce wood is used to make the soundboard (top) for stringed instruments such as guitars and fiddles because it resonates sound better than most other woods. It is also an important wood for making paper pulp.

Red Oak



The red oak tree has reddish brown bark with broad gray ridges which appear to have a shiny stripe down the center. The leaves are shiny green with pointed lobes, turning a rich red color in the fall. The acorns were boiled and eaten by Native Americans, and are an important food source for many birds and mammals. The red oak is one of the most important lumber trees in North America.



Plants and trees have the ability to make their own food in a process known as photosynthesis. They do this by sucking water and nutrients from the soil up through their xylem and into their leaves. The water and nutrients are combined with carbon dioxide and sunlight to make a sugary food called glucose. This food is then distributed by way of its phloem to the rest of the tree, so it can grow.

Illustrations drawn by David Williams

Shagbark Hickory



True to its name, the shagbark hickory has rough, shaggy bark that peels in long strips as the tree grows older. The leaves are **compound** (many leaflets on one stem), and the fruits (hickory nuts) are an important food source for squirrels, racoons, turkeys, and many other animals. Native Americans used the wood to make their bows and harvested the nuts for food, as people still do today.

Striped Maple



Striped maple is a small, shade-loving tree that has greenish-gray bark with distinct white stripes. It is also referred to as "goosefoot" because its leaf is shaped like a goose's foot. The bark and leaves are eaten by rabbits, porcupines, and deer. As with all maple trees, the seeds of striped maples are **samaras** (have wings) and spin like a helicopter in the wind.

□ Yellow Birch



The yellow birch tree is also known as paper birch because its bark **exfoliates** (peels) in wide, paper-like strips. Yellow birch trees have multiple trunks with drooping branches and shiny green leaves that turn a beautiful yellow in the fall. Ice cream sticks, toothpicks and toys are often made using paper birch. Native Americans used the bark as an outer covering on canoes.

