

IOSCO CONSERVATION DISTRICT



WINTER TREE ID @ INGALLS FOREST-2/9/2019

CONIFERS

HAVE NEEDLES*GEOTROPIC (They grow "plumb" with the earth) ****HAVE STICKY-PITCHY SAP****SEEDS ARE INSIDE CONES**

WHITE SPRUCE – needles grow out all around from the stem. Cross section of needle is a triangle. Tolerant to shade. Light gray bark. Cones are 5-10 cm long
Variety of sites -will tolerate wet heavy soil. Uses-dimensional lumber, highly prized pulpwood for paper, chips for particle board. Spruce budworm

BLACK SPRUCE- similar features to white spruce. Needles a little smaller. Cones are smaller Will tolerate the most inhospitable sites. - bogs, tundra, lowlands and muck soils along our watersheds. Was a market for the gum in the old days. Spruce budworm

BALSAM FIR- needles arranged (ranked) from the side of the stem. Tolerant to shade for years but need sun to flourish. Resin blisters (pitch pockets) on the dull green to gray bark. Same use as spruces. Spruce budworm

RED PINE- reddish scaly bark. Two long stiff needles per bundle (fascicle). Needles in "clumps" at end of branches. Does well and keeps good bole form in a plantation setting. Best on well drained ground. Somewhat tolerant to shade but will need "releasing". Lumber, utility poles, cabin logs. Pine sawflies, pine bark beetles.

WHITE PINE – dark colored bark (especially compared to red pine) getting “platy” looking on older specimens Five soft shorter needles per bundle. Will persist in shade, but needs good sun to flourish. Not planted to be open grown due to white pine weevils, and Saratoga spittle bugs. Local climax forest. All lumber, cabin logs, paper, particle board..

JACK PINE – Dark colored bark *a little greenish or orange on upper young branches– plates on older trees. Two short stiff needles per bundle. Cones stay ‘hard” with resin. Will grow on the driest sandy sites. Does not self-prune-“rough” looking. Adapted to fire. Intolerant to shade. All lumber uses, pulpwood for paper, and particle board.

HEMLOCK – Dark furrowed bark, just under bark surface will be pink or reddish. Fine “lacey” needles. Small cones. Top leader always “drips” over. Tolerant to shade. Long lived. Was big market for bark used for tanning. Local lumber, pulpwood for paper and particle board, sash, doors. One of the favorites for deer browse, and winter cover.

CEDAR – Light colored “shreddy” bark. Scale-like needles. Small cones. Very tolerant to shade. Long lived. Favorite deer browse and shelter. Cold, poorly drained swamps with moving water. Likes neutral ph. Calcareous soil. Limestone bedrock. Pure stands after wildfire and post-logging fires. Poles-posts-shingles-cabin logs-rustic furniture-paneling.

HARDWOODS

****LOSE LEAVES IN WINTER**PHOTOTROPIC (they grow towards the light)**

****WATERY SAP**ALTERNATE OR OPPOSITE BRANCHING**

****opposite branching=“MAD HORSE”= (maple, ash, dogwood, horse chestnut)**

****alternate branching= everything else (a couple rare exceptions)**

ASPEN **BIG TOOTH (YELLOW POPPLE)** thin bark is yellowish in color. new growth, fissured on old trees- broad flat-topped ridges. Intolerant to shade. Sprouts from every root section when cut or Burned or blown down. Pallets, plywood, particle board, furniture Stock, interior trim. Favorite wildlife habitat for game species and Others. Smaller winter bud. Pioneer
QUAKING (TREMBLING, POPPLE) thin very light-colored bark – think White birch w/o the peeling. Leaves tremble in the slightest breeze. Larger winter bud.
BALSAM POPLAR (BAM, BALM OF GILEAD, TACCAMAHAC) will Be found growing in the wetter ground. Bark will have many small Branches and branch scars. Winter buds long pointed, sticky and Aromatic and fragrant.

RED OAK – Bark is moderately thick, grayish brown and dark, smooth on young stems- “ironed out” furrows on older trees termed---ski trails. Inner bark is pinkish. Winter terminal bud 6 mm long. Oak wilt, two lined chestnut borers, armillaria root fungus. Furniture, veneer, flooring, timbers, ties, firewood

WHITE OAK – Thick bark. Light gray or whitish broken into long scaly blocks. Fire resistant. Wood is water proof. Resistant to oak wilt. Other stuff above eats it. Winter terminal bud is 3-4 mm. Same lumber and board uses as red oak. Also, wine casks and spirit barrels. Firewood

RED MAPLE – Bark thin smooth and light gray on young trunks, often with horizontal stripes on the east side of the tree. Old trunks-dark gray rough ridged separating into long, narrow plate-like scales that curve out or to one side. Winter terminal bud dark red 3-4 mm bud scales are rounded. Twigs red. Tips of branches not curving up. Inner bark not rank smelling. Inner bark pink. Pulpwood for high quality paper, pallets, plywood, veneer, furniture

SUGAR MAPLE – Bark deeply furrowed and dark gray on older trees. Smooth and dark gray on younger stems. Tips of branches curve down. Winter terminal bud 5-8 mm, conical, sharply pointed. Twigs chestnut brown. Inner bark rank smelling. Inner bark orange. Pulpwood for high quality paper, flooring, furniture, veneer, plywood, cabinets....

WHITE BIRCH- Pioneer, intolerant to shade, relatively short lived. Distinctive white, peeling/shredding bark. Very flammable. Hard to miss. Winter terminal bud is absent. Twig is slightly hairy. Birch borers. Woodenware, bobbins, golf tees, spools, dowels

YELLOW BIRCH - Shade tolerant. Yellowish bark, not as “peely” as white birch. Twigs and buds will have a wintergreen odor and taste. Veneer, furniture, cabinets, millwork, plywood.

AMERICAN BEECH – Very characteristic bark. Thin, smooth, tight, ash gray, or light bluish gray. Winter terminal bud slender, cigar shaped, sharp pointed, pretty long 1-2 cm. Flooring, furniture, tool handles, woodenware.

ASH—GREEN, WHITE – Green in the lowlands, White in the uplands. Green ash doesn’t seem to naturally prune as well as white, and will usually be limby or trashy looking. My best tip for an A on the field exam - Green has downy fuzzy twigs – White will not have downy fuzzy twigs and the outer bark of the twigs (except this year’s shoot) will be peeling or flaking on the White. Furniture, sporting equipment (baseball bats, hockey sticks, tennis racquets), tool handles, oars.

SPECKLED ALDER (TAG ALDER) – Shrub or small tree 6-25 ft tall. Several crooked stems rising from the root color. Typically bent down due to phototropism or snow load. Roots very shallow. Winter twigs reddish brown. Pith is a triangle in cross section.

IRONWOOD (HOP HORNBEAM) – Bark is soft, thin, grayish brown, broken into narrow strips loose at the ends, shredded – cat scratch. Young stem bark is tight, chestnut brown, with horizontal lenticels (slits) Winter bud 3-6 mm long. Greenish brown to pale brown. Twigs dull brown.

BASSWOOD (LINDEN) – Bark thin smooth dark gray on young stems; on old trunks, deeply furrowed, flat topped, scaly ridges, nearly parallel, sometimes interlacing. Twigs are stout and somewhat of a zig-zag pattern in the tops. Winter bud has a lop-sided shape. Highly valued for hand carving, furniture parts, veneer, plywood, interior trim.

