

Deciduous Key--Winter

1. Opposite branching pattern

2. Slender branching and twigs

3. Brown, pointed buds; dark gray, deeply furrowed bark, often curling outward in long, thick, irregular plates—Sugar Maple

3. Round, reddish buds; clusters of red flower buds often present; young bark smooth and light gray; old bark dark gray and plated—Red Maple

2. Stout branching and twigs

4. Rusty brown buds, U-shaped leaf scar; thick, gray bark, deeply furrowed, diamond-shaped pattern—White Ash

4. Dark gray-black buds; bark soft and corky, ashy gray, flakes off when rubbed with hand—Black Ash

1. Alternate branching pattern

5. Bark is mostly smooth; creamy white, light gray, or yellowish/greenish gray

6. Buds short and pointed, around ¼"

7. Buds are shiny, brown, and lay flat against the twig—Quaking Aspen

7. Buds are dull brown and angle away from twig—Bigtooth Aspen

6. Buds long and pointed, around ¾", light brown—American Beech

5. Bark is dark or papery or scaly or furrowed

7. Bark is papery and peels off easily

8. Chalky white bark (reddish brown on young trunks); small dark buds—Paper Birch

8. Yellow-bronze bark; brown, conical buds—Yellow Birch

7. Bark not papery

9. Terminal buds usually in a cluster; buds reddish brown; dark gray-brown bark with shallow fissures, very firm—Red Oak

9. Terminal buds not in a cluster

10. Round buds, large, and red; dark gray bark (smooth when young, deeply furrowed ridges when old); trunks often grow in clumps; hard, pea-like seeds—American Basswood

10. Pointed buds

11. Greenish to reddish brown buds; grayish brown bark, broken into narrow longitudinal strips that are loose at the ends, shaggy look, easily sloughs off with the hand—Ironwood

11. Small reddish brown to greenish buds; young bark smooth, dark reddish brown with horizontal gray flecks; old bark very dark (almost black), rough and broken into irregular plates (looks like burnt potato chips)—Black Cherry

