Leaf Reference Guide

Parts of a Leaf

- Margin (edge of leaf)
- Apex (leaf tip)
- Veins
- Sinus (the space between lobes)
- Lobe (protrusions on leaf)
- Petiole (leafstalk)

Red Maple (RM)
- Palmate veins
- 3-5 palmate lobes
- Irregularly serrated margins
- Distinct light coloration below leaf
- 5 main veins stemming from petiole

Sugar Maple (SM)
- Palmate veins
- Smooth margins
- U-shaped sinuses
- 3-5 palmate lobes
- 5 main veins stemming from petiole

Striped Maple (Str. M)
- Paper thin
- Palmate veins
- Serrated margins
- “Duck foot” shape
- 3 main veins stemming from petiole

American Beech (BE)
- Pinnate veins
- Papery in texture
- Veins line up with serrations (teeth)
- Veins reach end of the leaf margin
- Generally largest leaves in sample

White Birch (WB)
- Flat leaf base
- Uneven serration
- Pinnate veins (5-9 veins)
- Veins reach end of leaf margin
- Spade shaped base is widest part of leaf

Yellow Birch (YB)
- Uneven, fine serration
- Pinnate veins (9-11 veins)
- Narrow leaf base and apex
- Veins reach end of leaf margin
- Veins do not line up with serrations
Leaf Terminology

Leaf Venation

- Palmate
- Pinnate

Leaf Margin

- Serrated
- Entire
- Lobed

Quaking Aspen (QA)

- Spade shaped
- Palmate veins
- Serrated leaf margin
- Veins end before leaf margin

Bigtooth Aspen (BTA)

- Spade shaped
- Palmate veins
- Veins end before leaf margin
- Toothed serrations larger than Quaking Aspen

Pin Cherry (PC)

- Pinnate veins
- Thin and long in shape
- Very finely serrated leaf margin
- Veins end before leaf margin
- Generally smallest leaf in the sample

Basswood (Bass)

- Distinctly rounded
- Finely serrated margins
- Short tip at apex of leaf
- Uneven, heart-shaped base
- Distinct light coloration below leaf

Ash (Ash)

- Pinnate veins
- Serrate leaf margin
- Veins end before leaf margin
- Distinct light coloration below leaf

Oak (Oak)

- Palmate veins
- U-shaped sinuses
- Smooth leaf margin
- More elongated than maple
- Veins end before leaf margin