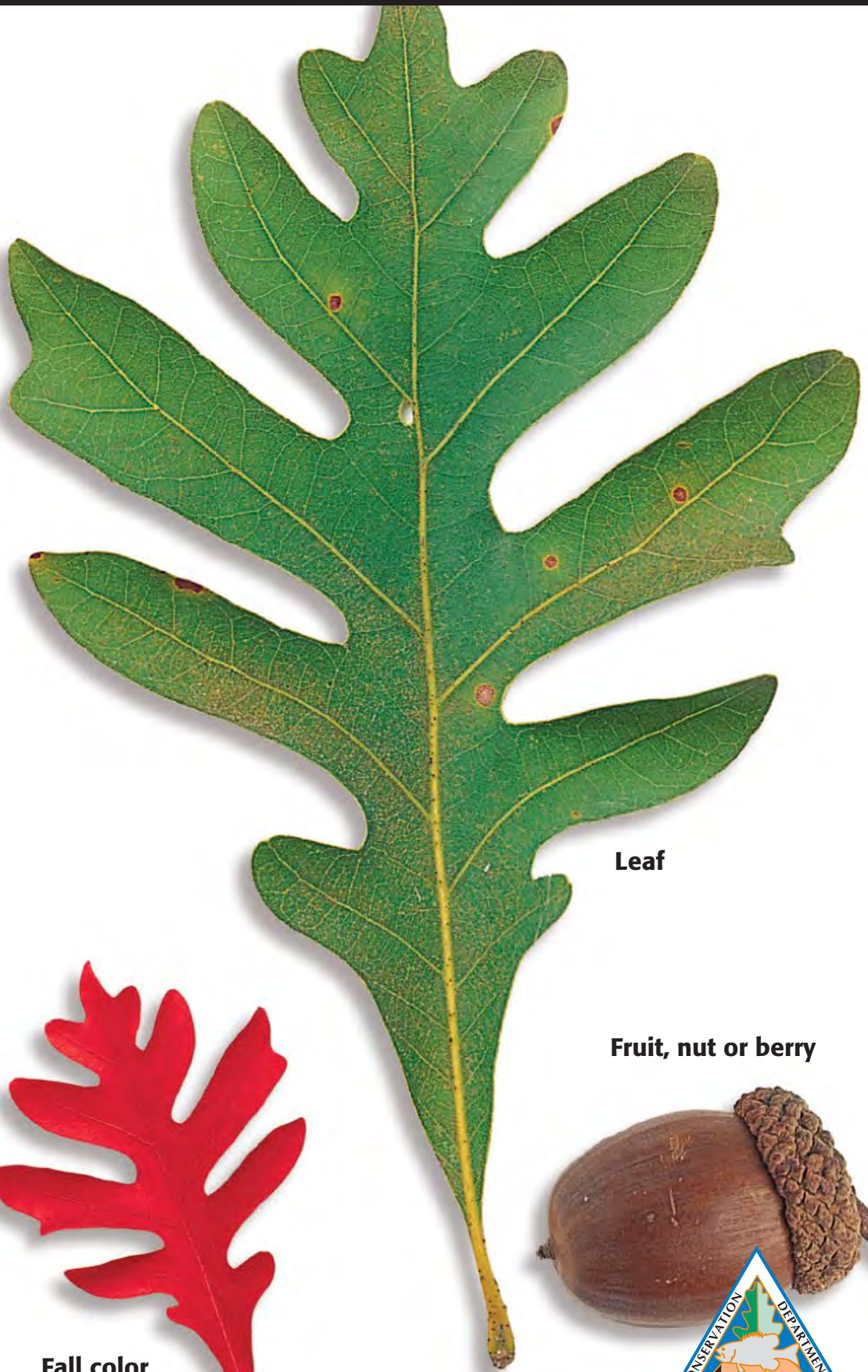


LEAF IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

Show me Trees



Leaf



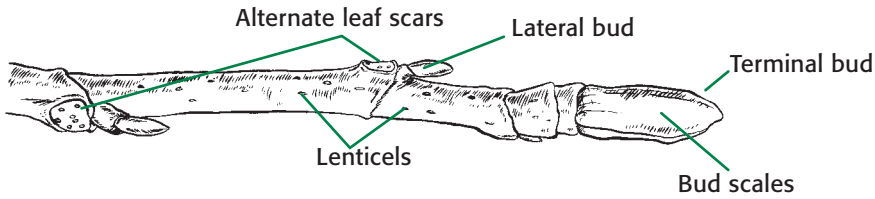
Fall color

Fruit, nut or berry

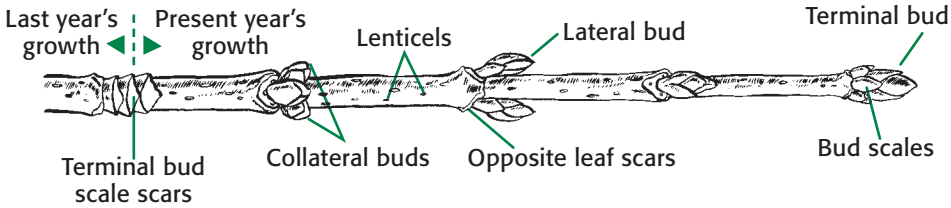


Leaf Structure

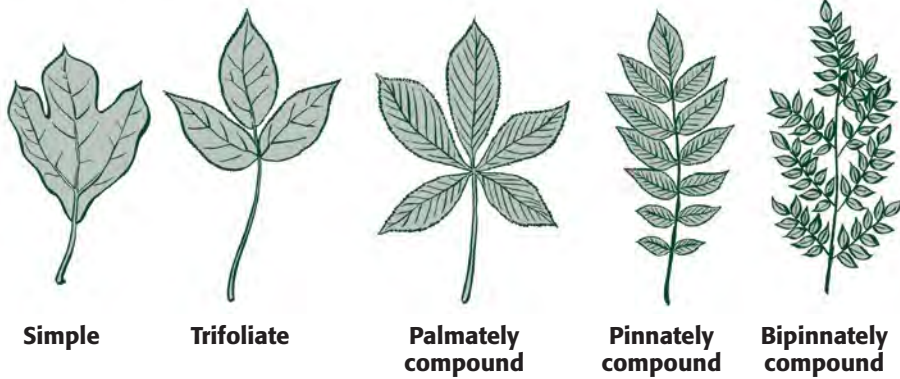
Alternate arrangement



Opposite arrangement



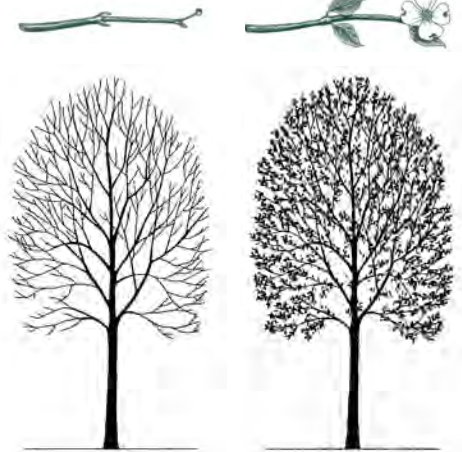
Leaf Composition



Changing Seasons

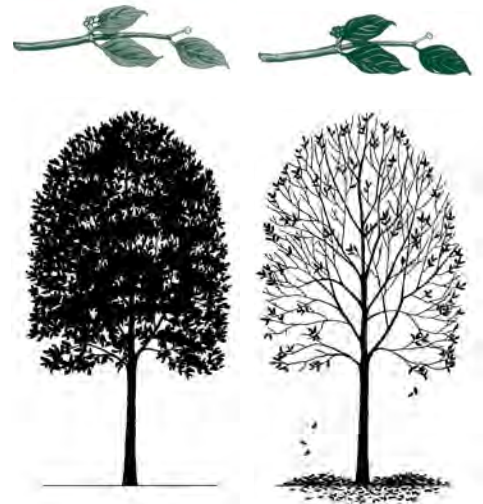
Winter

Spring

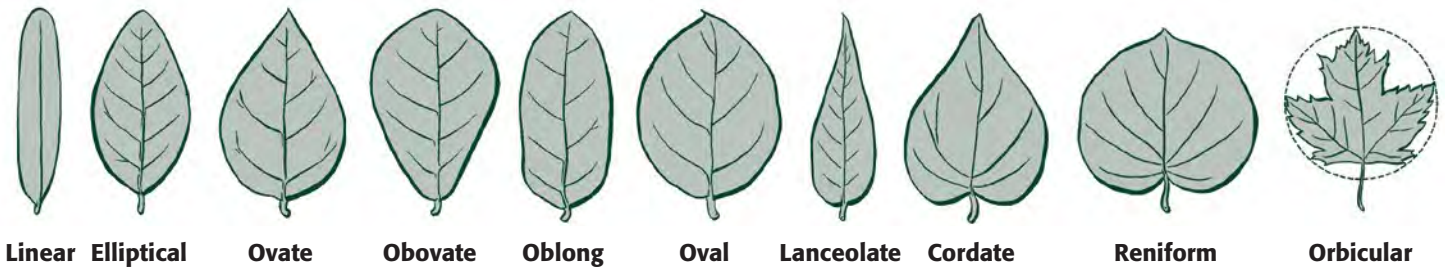


Summer

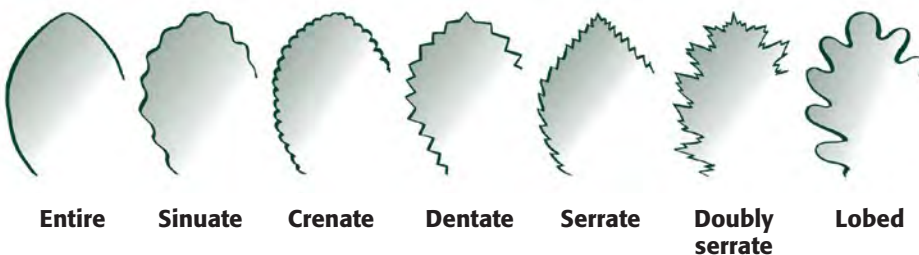
Fall



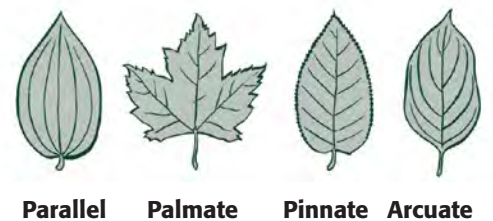
Leaf Shapes



Leaf Margins



Leaf Venation



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Range maps: Shading indicates native range in Missouri.



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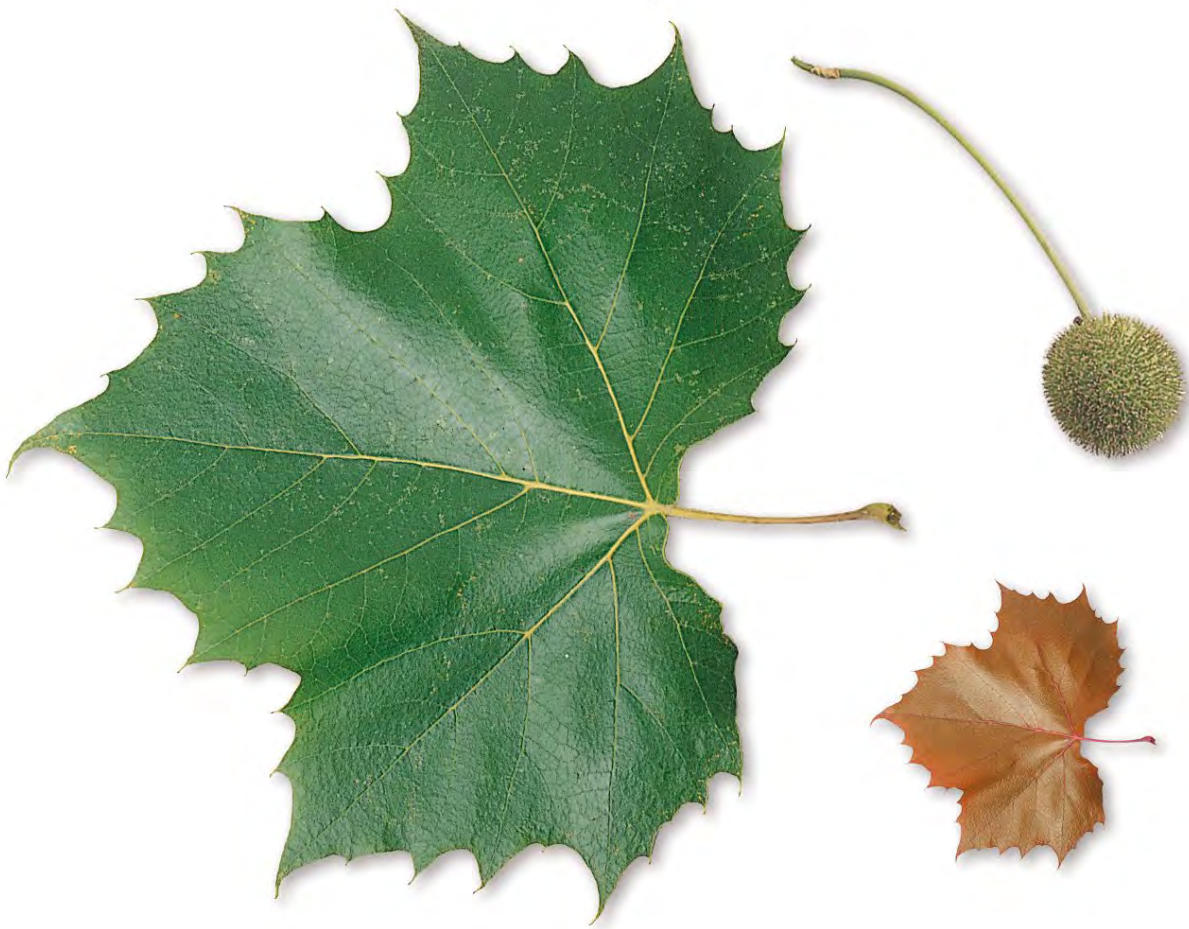
Missouri Department of Conservation
P.O. Box 180
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180

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American sycamore

Platanus occidentalis



Sycamore is one of the largest eastern hardwoods. Sycamore can be used to stabilize streambanks along with other bottomland species, where it provides nest sites for large birds such as bald eagle and great blue heron.

Height: 90 ft, spread 90 ft

Leaves: alternate, simple, 4"–8" in diameter with 3–5 main lobes, edges coarsely toothed, yellow-green above, paler below

Flowers: tiny; greenish, in 1–2 ball-like drooping clusters

Fruit: many seeded ball 1"–1½" in diameter on a stem 3"–6" long; each seed attached to a hairy plume

Bark: distinctive smooth whitish and mottled bark on upper trunk and branches; lower bark thin, dark brown, scaly

Ideal site: wet soil, intermediate sun

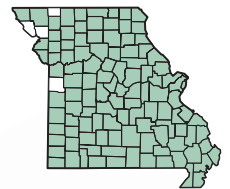
Value to man: erosion control, landscaping, wood products

Value to wildlife: cover, dens

Growth rate: fast

American sycamore

Platanus occidentalis



American sycamore

Trace your leaf here.

Black walnut

Juglans nigra



Black walnut is one of the most scarce and valuable native hardwoods. It is prized for its nuts and lumber. A chemical in the leaves and nuts will kill some plants such as tomatoes and apples.

Height: 85 ft, spread 85 ft

Leaves: alternate, compound, 12"–24" long with 13–23 leaflets; each leaflet 2"–4" long, lance-shaped, edges finely toothed, yellow-green

Flowers: yellow-green catkins

Fruit: nut, 1"–1½" in diameter, covered with a thick yellow-green fibrous husk

Bark: young bark smooth and gray; older bark dark brown and furrowed

Ideal site: moist soil, full sun

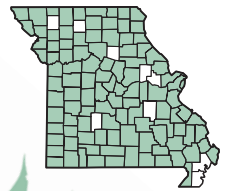
Value to man: wood products, food

Value to wildlife: food, cover, dens

Growth rate: medium

Black walnut

Juglans nigra

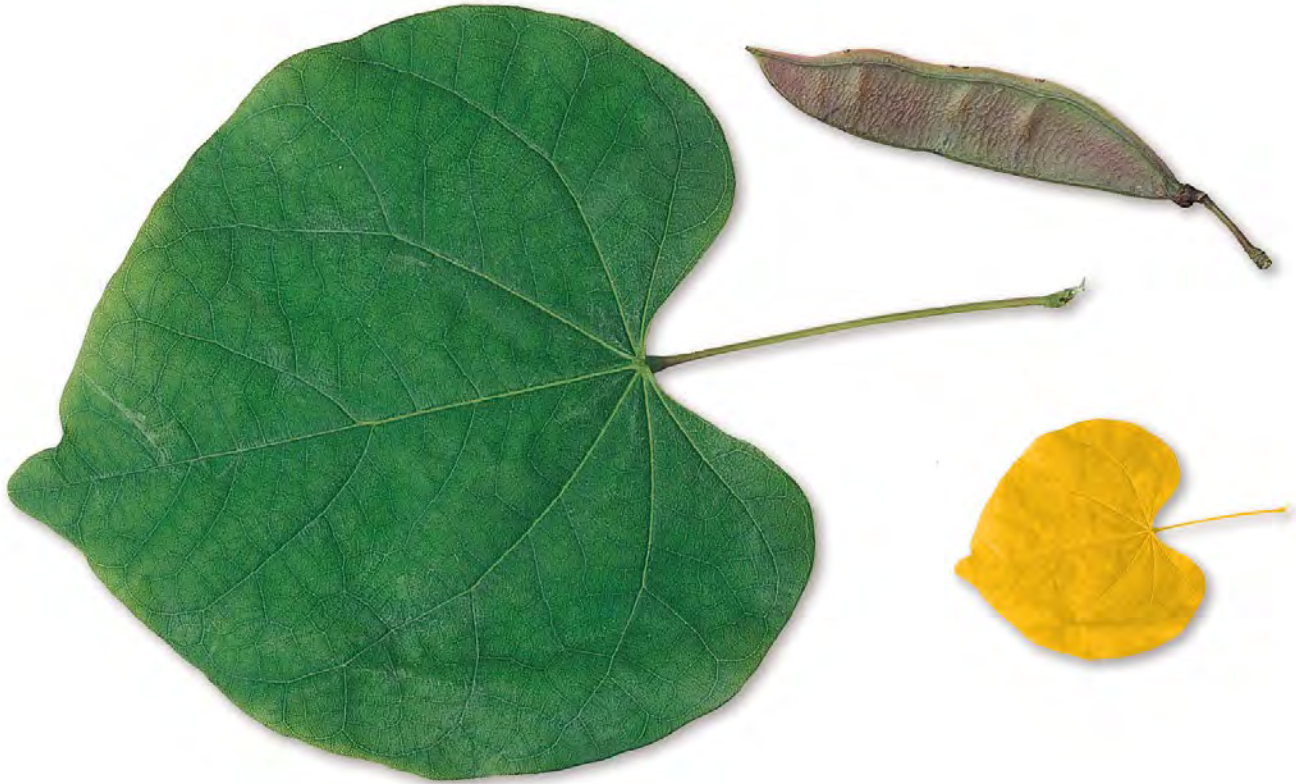


Black walnut

Trace your leaf here.

Eastern redbud

Cercis canadensis



Redbud is a small to medium understory tree found in nearly every county in Missouri. It is very showy in the spring when the leafless twigs are covered with masses of pink flowers.

Height: 30 ft, spread 30 ft

Leaves: alternate, simple, heart-shaped, 3"-5" long, dark green

Flowers: purplish-pink, pea-like, appear before the leaves in spring

Fruit: flat pod, 3" long containing small seeds

Bark: dark gray or brown with reddish inner bark showing

Ideal site: average soil, shade

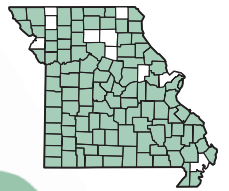
Value to man: windbreaks, landscaping

Value to wildlife: food

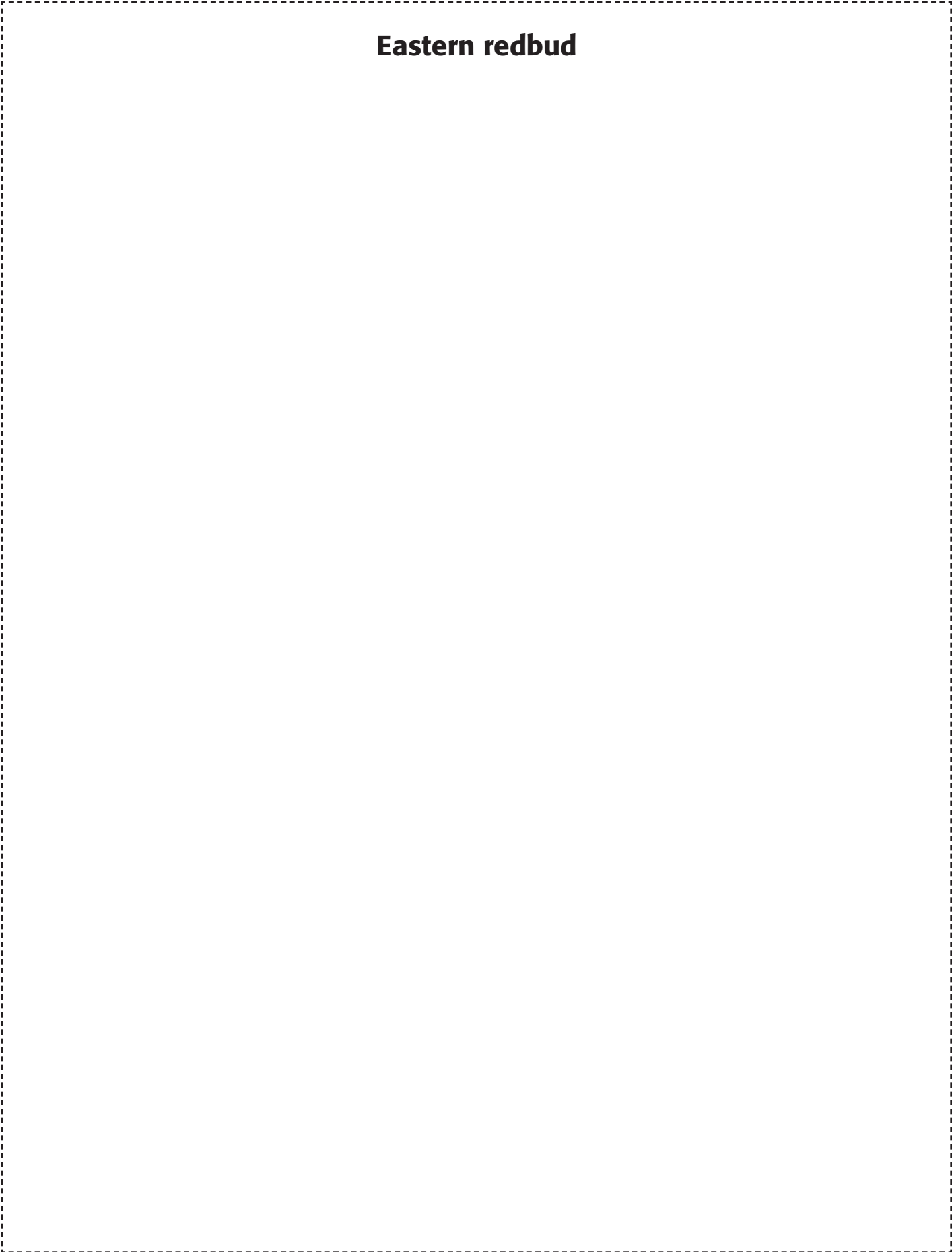
Growth rate: medium

Eastern redbud

Cercis canadensis



Eastern redbud



Trace your leaf here.

Eastern red cedar

Juniperus virginiana



A true juniper found on a variety of sites throughout Missouri. It can quickly colonize old fields and fence rows and it is also found on dry limestone glades where it forms nearly pure stands.

Height: 60 ft, spread 40 ft

Leaves: 1/16" long, scale-like or needle-like, longer on new growth, dark green

Fruit: small, round, fleshy, bluish berry-like cone

Bark: thin, light reddish-brown, shreddy

Ideal site: wide soil range, full sun

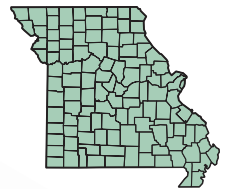
Value to man: windbreaks, erosion control, wood products

Value to wildlife: food, cover

Growth rate: slow

Eastern red cedar

Juniperus virginiana



Eastern red cedar

Trace your leaf here.

Flowering dogwood

Cornus florida



A beautiful tree with showy early spring flowers, red berries and scarlet fall foliage. Dogwood should be planted where it is shaded. Flowering dogwood is Missouri's state tree.

Height: 40 ft, spread 35 ft

Leaves: opposite, simple, egg-shaped, 3"-5" long, edges slightly wavy, dark green

Flowers: small, surrounded by 4 large white petal-like bracts; appear before the leaves in early spring

Fruit: scarlet, egg-shaped berries, ½" long

Bark: purplish-green on young twigs; older bark reddish-brown, rough, broken into small square plates

Ideal site: moist soil, shade

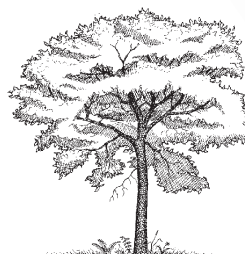
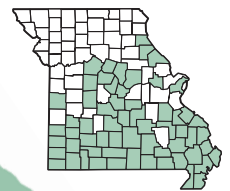
Value to man: landscaping

Value to wildlife: food

Growth rate: medium

Flowering dogwood

Cornus florida



Flowering dogwood

Trace your leaf here.

Northern red oak

Quercus rubra



Northern red oak is one of the most widespread and commercially important of the oaks. The tree is found throughout Missouri except in the southernmost counties of the Bootheel.

Height: 90 ft, spread 85 ft

Leaves: alternate, simple, 5"–8" long, oblong, 7–10 bristle-tipped toothed lobes, shiny dark green

Flowers: male flowers in yellow-green catkins; female flowers inconspicuous

Fruit: acorn, 1" long with a flat, saucer-like cap

Bark: smooth, dark brown on young trees becoming wide, flat ridges separated by shallow fissures; rough and furrowed on old trees

Ideal site: moist soil, intermediate sun

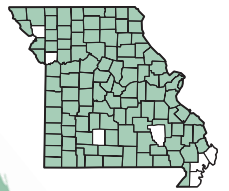
Value to man: windbreaks, landscaping, wood products

Value to wildlife: food, cover, dens

Growth rate: medium

Northern red oak

Quercus rubra



Northern red oak

Trace your leaf here.

Pin oak

Quercus palustris



Under natural conditions a medium-sized tree of moist valleys, along streams, ponds and swamps, but also found on dry locations. Pin oak grows faster than other oak species and has become a much planted ornamental.

Height: 65 ft, spread 65 ft

Leaves: alternate, simple, 3"-7" long, 5-7 bristle-tipped toothed lobes, lobes deeply divided, shiny dark green

Flowers: male flowers in yellow-green catkins; female flowers inconspicuous

Fruit: acorn, ½" long with a thin cap

Bark: thin, smooth gray bark on young trees; older bark shallowly fissured

Ideal site: wet soil, full sun

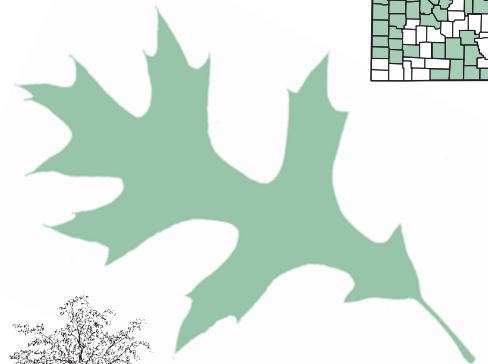
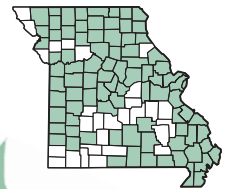
Value to man: windbreaks, landscaping, wood products

Value to wildlife: food, cover, dens

Growth rate: fast

Pin oak

Quercus palustris



Pin oak

Trace your leaf here.

Shagbark hickory

Carya ovata



Shagbark hickory grows best on bottomland soils, but it can also be found throughout the state on dry upland sites. The wood is used for the handles of axes, hammers, and hatchets and for smoking meat.

Height: 85 ft, spread 45 ft

Leaves: alternate, compound, 8"–14" long, 5 (rarely 7) leaflets; each leaflet 4"–8" long, elliptical, broadest above the middle, edges finely toothed, dark yellow-green

Flowers: male flowers in catkins, female flowers in spikes at the end of branches

Fruit: nut 1"–2½" in diameter, covered with a thick 4-part husk

Bark: gray, smooth on young trees; older bark breaks into long, thin shaggy plates that curve away from the trunk

Ideal site: average soil, intermediate sun

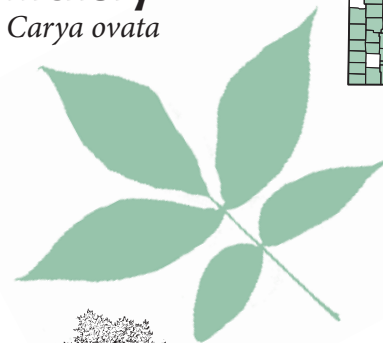
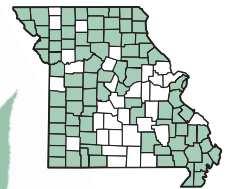
Value to man: wood products, food

Value to wildlife: food, cover, dens

Growth rate: slow

Shagbark hickory

Carya ovata

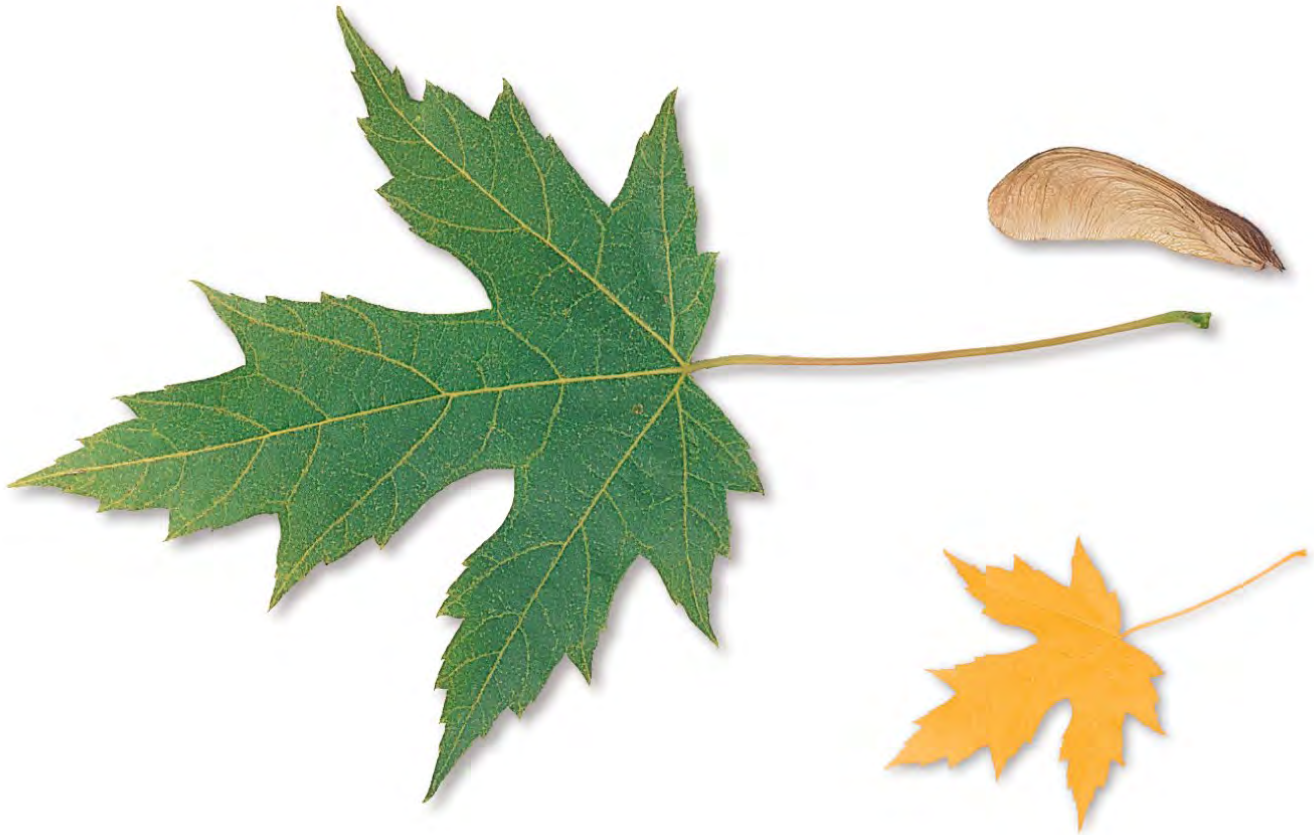


Shagbark hickory

Trace your leaf here.

Silver maple

Acer saccharinum



Silver maple is a large, fast-growing tree found in bottomlands. The wood is used commercially as a “soft” hardwood.

Height: 90 ft, spread 90 ft

Leaves: opposite, simple, 4"–6" in diameter, 5 lobes, edges coarsely toothed, pale green above, silvery below

Flowers: in clusters along twigs, reddish green

Fruit: winged seed in pairs

Bark: silvery-gray on young trees; older bark gray, breaking into long thin scaly plates

Ideal site: wet soil, intermediate sun

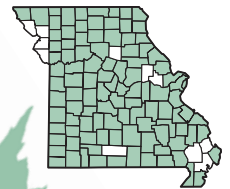
Value to man: erosion control, wood products

Value to wildlife: food, dens

Growth rate: fast

Silver maple

Acer saccharinum



Silver maple

Trace your leaf here.

White oak

Quercus alba



The most important hardwood lumber tree in the United States and Missouri, setting the standard of lumber for all other oaks. The wood is outstanding for making tight barrels for whiskey and other liquids.

Height: 85 ft, spread 85 ft

Leaves: alternate, simple, 5"–9" long, 7–9 rounded lobes, edges smooth, bright green

Flowers: male flowers in yellow-green catkins; female flowers inconspicuous

Fruit: acorn, ¾" long, shiny brown with a thick warty cap

Bark: light gray; rough with long, loose scales; becoming blocky on very old trees

Ideal site: moist soil, intermediate sun

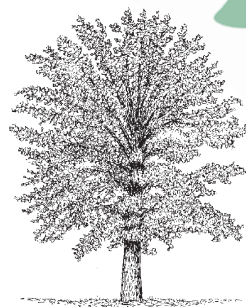
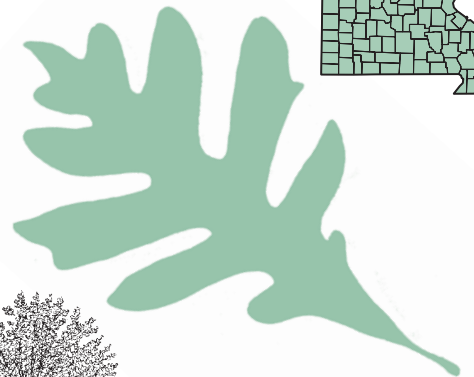
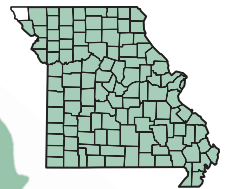
Value to man: landscaping, wood products

Value to wildlife: food, cover, dens

Growth rate: slow

White oak

Quercus alba



White oak

Trace your leaf here.



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