

White Alder

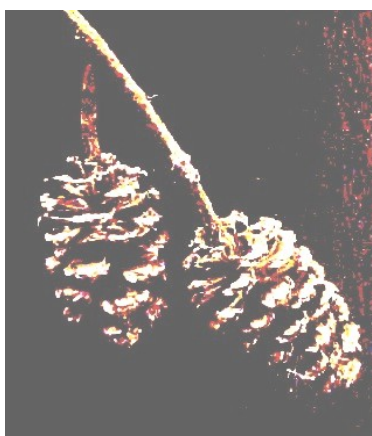
Genus/species *Alnus rhombifolia*

Family Betulaceae

Distribution **Western US** West central Washington southward to SW California
SW California northward to west central Nevada
and west central Idaho
West central Idaho westward to west central Washington

Comments White alder often forms a clump of small trees, but sometimes an individual tree may have a trunk with a diameter of 12 inches. This species is typically found in areas where there is a consistent supply of water, such as along streams. It ranges from sea level up to over 7000 feet, but its distribution is widely scattered within its range. The rather thick leaves are about 2 to 4 inches in length and are widest near the center, helping to give this tree its specific name, and each leaf has fine teeth at the edges.

The male catkins release their wind-blown pollen during the winter months. The seeds are borne in small cones a half-inch in length or less.



Green/Red Ash

Genus/species	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>
Family	Oleaceae
Distribution	Eastern and Central US E Texas eastward to N Florida N Florida northeastward to Maine Maine westward to central Montana Central Montana southeastward to E Texas Absent from most upland areas of Northeast

Comments Green Ash, also called Red Ash, is a very widespread species typically found in floodplains and other moist areas, often following rivers far westward into otherwise mostly treeless areas. It is a quickly-growing medium-sized tree. The compound leaves, each composed of seven to nine pointed, slightly-toothed leaflets, are borne in pairs (opposite) on the twigs. The male and female flowers are produced on separate trees in the spring. The pollen is spread by the wind, and the female flowers develop into paddle-shaped fruit, each containing one seed, that ripen in the autumn.



White Ash

Genus/species *Fraxinus americana*

Family Oleaceae

Distribution **Eastern and Central US** E Texas eastward to central Florida
Florida northeastward to Maine
Maine westward to SE Minnesota and NW Iowa
NW Iowa southward to E Texas
Absent from Lower Mississippi Valley and Gulf
and Atlantic coastal areas

Comments White Ash is a very widespread species typically found in moist areas near streams or on slopes. It becomes a medium-sized tree. The compound leaves, each composed of five to nine pointed leaflets, are borne in pairs (opposite) on the twigs and are lighter underneath than on top. The male and female flowers are produced on separate trees in the spring. Pollen is spread by the wind, and the female flowers develop into paddle-shaped fruit, each containing one seed, that ripen in the autumn.



Aspen

Genus/species	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	
Family	Salicaceae	
Distribution	Western and northeastern US	NW Washington southward to N California N California southeastward to W Texas W Texas northward to North Dakota North Dakota eastward to Maine Maine southward to N New Jersey N New Jersey westward to central Iowa Central Iowa northward to North Dakota Alaska

Comments This small tree, also known as Quaking Aspen because its flattened leafstalks allow the small triangular yellow-green leaves to flutter in the slightest breeze, has the widest distribution of any of the native American species, being found from Alaska to Mexico and on both the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts, although uncommon immediately near the latter. It occurs at a wide range of elevations, preferring areas having rather cool summers as part of a rugged continental climate. It quickly develops in recently-cleared areas and often spreads by suckers, especially in the western part of its range. Aspen has a distinct greenish-white bark, and large colonies are easily recognized on a mountainside, especially in the autumn when the leaves turn a light yellow. This species is important for many kinds of wildlife. The male and female flowers, borne on catkins, form on separate trees in the spring as the leaves are beginning to develop. The pollen is wind-pollinated and the seeds are carried away in the wind by their attached "cotton".



Bayberry/Wax Myrtle

Genus/species *Myrica cerifera*

Family Myricaceae

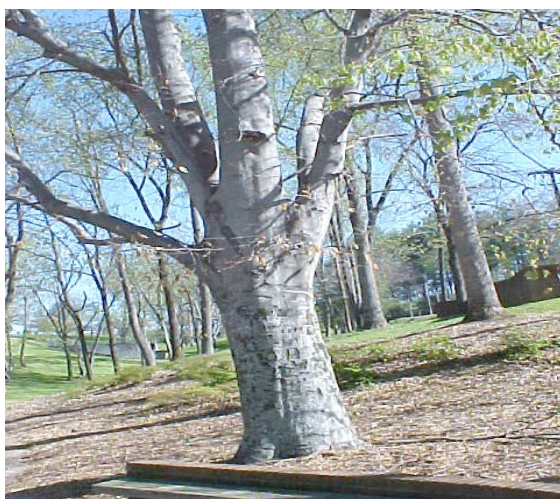
Distribution Southeastern US Gulf and Atlantic Coastal Plains
New Jersey southward to S Florida
S Florida westward to E Texas and SE Oklahoma

Comments This small tree or large shrub has yellow-green evergreen leaves and it usually grows in wet areas, such as swamps or pond margins. The flowers are small and inconspicuous, blooming in early spring, and male and female flowers are on separate plants. The fruits are tiny balls having a light-blue waxing coating.



American Beech

Genus/species	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>
Family	Fagaceae (includes oaks, chestnuts and chinkapins)
Distribution	Eastern US E Texas northward to NE Wisconsin NE Wisconsin eastward to Maine Maine southward to N Florida Absent from most of the Lower Mississippi Valley.
Comments	This species becomes a large tree and likes moist rich uplands. It has distinctive smooth grayish-blue bark. Its leaves are oval and pointed, with short teeth along the margins. During the winter, the dried beige leaves help identify the tree because they tend to remain on the twigs. The flowers, which appear just as the leaves are starting to form, achieve pollination by wind. One or two short female flowers are found near the end of a twig while the pollen-producing clusters of male flowers, borne on stalks, emerge from the base of a leaf and fall from the tree after blooming. By the end of summer, the female flowers have developed into nuts surrounded by rather spiny bracts that open to release them.



Beefwood/Australian Pine

Genus/Species: *Casuarina equisetifolia*

Family: Casuarinaceae

Distribution: Florida, Hawaii, Puerto Rico

Comments: This species has been introduced and naturalized in warm areas of the US and many other lowland tropical areas of the world; it is native to northeastern Australia (where it is called Coastal She-oak). There are many other species of this genus in Australia and nearby islands.

The name “Australian Pine” comes from this tree’s superficial resemblance to the true pines. The flexible young twigs, even with their greatly-reduced leaves, tend to resemble pine needles, and the woody fruits are somewhat suggestive of small pine cones. The tree often has a conical shape when young, and the foliage is not dense.

Pollination is by wind from small, inconspicuous male flowers. The female flowers mature to become the cone-like fruits.



River Birch *or* Red Birch

Genus/species	<i>Betula nigra</i>
Family	Betulaceae
Distribution	<p>Southeastern US</p> <p>E Texas northward to Missouri Missouri eastward to Maryland Maryland southward to N Florida N Florida westward to E Texas Northward along Upper Mississippi Valley to SE Minnesota Northward along Atlantic Coast to SE New York and S New Hampshire Mostly absent from Appalachian Mountain systems and Lower Mississippi Valley</p>

Comments This is the only birch native to lowland areas of the southeastern US, and it is typically found in wet areas such as floodplains of rivers and streams. It is a medium-sized tree often cultivated as an ornamental because of its shaggy, brownish papery bark that peels in layers. The male catkins, which soon release their wind-blown pollen, can be seen hanging in the early spring just as the leaves are beginning to develop while the female “cones” develop later, then disintegrate to release their seeds.



Eastern Red Cedar

Genus/species	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>
Family	Cupressaceae
Distribution	<p>Eastern and central US</p> <p>Central South Dakota southward to E Texas E Texas eastward to extreme N Florida N Florida northward to S Maine S Maine westward to central South Dakota Absent from Gulf and Southern Atlantic coastal regions, peninsular Florida, Lower Mississippi Valley and most mountainous areas of Northeast</p>
Comments	<p>This species is found in a variety of habitats, especially open areas underlain by limestone. It is often common along fence lines where the seeds have been deposited by birds in their droppings. Red Cedar is sometimes planted as an ornamental and may slowly grow to be a medium-sized tree after spending its youth as a columnar shrub. It blooms in early spring from tiny but numerous pollen cones and its female cones resemble light blue berries. Its wood is prized for cedar chests and was once the primary source of wood for pencils. In much of the Gulf and Southern Atlantic coastal regions, and peninsular Florida Eastern Red Cedar is replaced by the closely-related Southern Red Cedar (<i>Juniperus silicicola</i>) while other species, such as Rocky Mountain Juniper (<i>Juniperus scopulorum</i>) and Mountain Cedar (<i>Juniperus ashei</i>), replace it in the west. Eastern Red Cedar is the only conifer native to Kansas.</p>



Mountain Cedar

Genus/species *Juniperus ashei*

Family **Cupressaceae**

Distribution **South central US** Central Texas to south central Oklahoma
NW Arkansas to SW Missouri

Comments This species is essentially restricted to dry open areas underlain by limestone, and is a very conspicuous species in the “Hill Country” of Texas, the Arbuckle Mountains of Oklahoma, and smaller areas in the Ozarks of Arkansas and Missouri. It is a relatively small, often gnarled tree having tiny, mostly scale-like leaves. The tiny staminate cones release their abundant wind-carried pollen in the winter and the bluish, berry-like cones (produced on different trees from the pollen) are produced the following summer, ripening in the autumn. It spreads aggressively and there is considerable controversy as to how it should be managed, particularly in Texas.



Eastern Cottonwood

Genus/species *Populus deltoides*

Family **Salicaceae**

Distribution **Eastern US** E South Dakota southward to central Texas
 Texas eastward to the Florida Panhandle
 Florida northward to E North Carolina
 North Carolina to W New York
 Smaller patches in northeastern states except Maine
 Lacking from most of Appalachian Mountain systems

Comments There is some disagreement as to the western border of the range of this species because of the status and distinctness of the closely-related plains cottonwood. Rather large amounts of wind-borne pollen is released from male catkins in the spring. The name “cottonwood” refers to the fluffy down that is attached to the seeds, produced in the spring soon after pollination. This tree, which grows rapidly, is typically found on the flood plains of rivers and streams, but is sometimes cultivated. The grayish bark usually has distinct ridges, and the shiny triangular leaves are distinctive. This species is sometimes called a poplar tree.



Fremont Cottonwood

Genus/species *Populus fremontii*

Family **Salicaceae**

Distribution	Southwestern US	N California southward to SW California SW California eastward to W Texas W Texas northward to W Colorado W Colorado westward to N California
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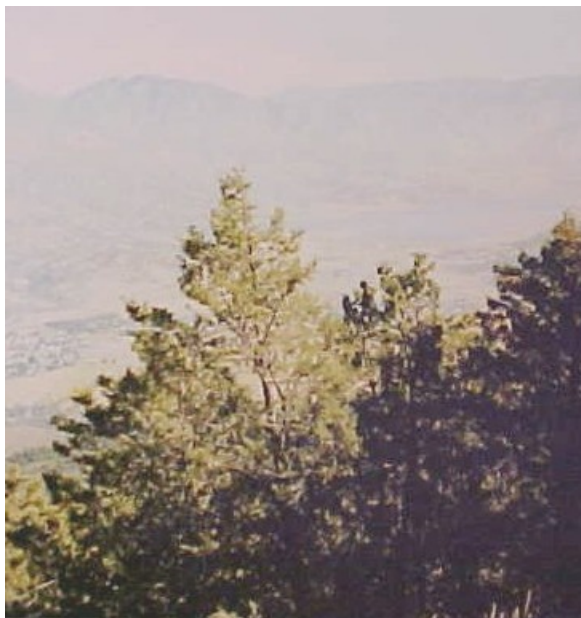
Comments	<p>This is the common cottonwood of the southwestern quarter of the US, and is quite similar to its close relatives the eastern and plains cottonwoods. The name cottonwood refers to the fluffy down that is attached to the seeds, produced in the spring soon after pollination. This tree, which grows quite rapidly, is typically found on the flood plains of rivers and streams. The grayish bark usually has distinct ridges, and the shiny triangular leaves are distinctive. The male flowers, borne on catkins, are formed in the early spring (time depending upon location and elevation) and release rather large quantities of wind-borne pollen; the female catkins (on separate trees from the male) develop seeds after fertilization. These seeds are released in early summer, each blown about due to its attached “cotton”.</p>
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Arizona Cypress

Genus/species	<i>Cupressus arizonica</i>
Family	Cupressaceae
Distribution	Southwestern US Central and southeastern Arizona, southwestern New Mexico to western Texas Southcentral California

Comments There is disagreement as to whether some forms should be varieties of this species or regarded as separate species. In any case, the “typical” form is distributed from southeastern Arizona eastward to western Texas; the smooth cypress of central Arizona, the Paiute and the Cuyamaca cypresses of California are sometimes recognized as varieties of this species. These trees are typically found at moderately-high elevations in the mountains. They are rather small trees, usually not exceeding some 40 feet in height and two feet in diameter. The foliage is reduced to small scales, similar to those found on junipers. The tiny male cones release their wind-borne pollen in the spring, and the woody female cones ripen at the end of the second season; the latter are approximately an inch in diameter, may contain nearly a hundred seeds.



Bald Cypress

Genus/species	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>
Family	Cupressaceae (formerly in separate family Taxodiaceae)
Distribution	<p>Southeastern US S Delaware along Atlantic Coastal Plain to S Florida Florida westward through Gulf Coastal Plain to central Texas Northward along Mississippi Valley to S Illinois and SW Indiana</p>
Comments	<p>Although this species is a conifer, it drops all its leaves in the winter. When it is growing in water or saturated soil, it tends to develop “knees” which are vertical extensions of the roots believed to supply oxygen to the roots. The leaves are borne on small twigs, and usually the leaves and twigs fall as a unit in the autumn after turning a coppery color. The male flowers are “stringlike” and the female cones are like balls and about an inch in diameter. Pollen is dispersed by wind. Trees may become covered by Spanish moss (<i>Tillandsia</i>, an epiphytic bromeliad).</p>



American Elm

Genus/species	<i>Ulmus americana</i>
Family	Ulmaceae
Distribution	Eastern and Central US Central Texas eastward to central Florida Florida northeastward to Maine Maine westward to E Montana Montana southeastward to central Texas

Comments The American Elm is a very widespread medium-sized or large tree typically found in floodplains, ravines and other moist areas, often following rivers far westward into otherwise mostly treeless areas. It is one of the most important North American trees because of its abundance throughout a wide range, its importance as food for wildlife, the uses for its wood, and its aesthetic qualities as a shade tree. Unfortunately, the introduced fungus that causes Dutch elm disease has destroyed a large number of American elms. Mature trees have a characteristic vase shape caused by the splitting of the trunk into several large branches, and smaller branches are typically weeping. The alternate deciduous leaves are asymmetrical and pointed, with a double row of teeth along the margins. The flowers are produced in the early spring, and the flat fruit, oval in shape with a notch at the ends, contains one seed and ripens and falls later in the spring. The pollen is dispersed by wind.



Eucalyptus

Genus/species *Eucalyptus globulus*

Family **Myrtaceae**

Distribution **California, Arizona, and Hawaii** NW California southward to S California
Southern Arizona
Islands of Hawaii and Maui

Comments This Eucalyptus, also known as Tasmanian Blue Gum, is one of the hardier species that develop into large trees; thus, it has found California to be a suitable home after its introduction. Other species of eucalyptus are also cultivated in the US, mostly in California but a few are grown in Florida and other relatively warm states. The long blue-green sickle-like leaves and distinct scent are characteristic of this tree. The bark differs considerably among species; in blue gum it comes off in long, light brown straps or ribbons. The leaves on young trees or new shoots may be shaped rather differently—arranged oppositely without petioles. The flowers are rather unusual in structure—the sepals and petals form a protective covering over the bud and fall off when the flower blooms, leaving the numerous stamens to lend color to the flower. The single pistil leads to the ovary that ripens as a distinct capsule that eventually releases tiny seeds.

There are some eight hundred species of eucalyptus, and all except one are native to Australia.



Hackberry

Genus/species	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>
Family	Celtidaceae (=Ulmaceae in part)
Distribution	<p>Central and eastern US</p> <p>SW Oklahoma northward to W Nebraska and central North Dakota</p> <p>Central North Dakota eastward to S New Hampshire</p> <p>S New Hampshire southwestward to SE Maryland and N Mississippi</p> <p>N Mississippi westward to SW Oklahoma</p> <p>Mostly absent from northern Appalachian Mountain systems and Lower Mississippi Valley</p>
Comments	<p>Hackberry is typically a rather small tree found in lowland areas, such as in floodplains of rivers or on rocky slopes and bluffs, especially those underlain by limestone. Leaves are rather triangular with a rounded base and a pointed tip, and have teeth at the edges. Flowers form in the spring, and the female flowers develop into small rounded berries that serve as food for wildlife. The pollen is spread by the wind.</p> <p>There are a few closely-related species, such as the Sugarberry (<i>Celtis laevigata</i>) that has a more southerly range and has smooth edges on the leaves.</p>



Shagbark Hickory

Genus/species	<i>Carya ovata</i>	
Family	Juglandaceae	
Distribution	Eastern US	SE Maine southwestward to central Mississippi and E Texas E Texas northward to Iowa and central Wisconsin Central Wisconsin eastward to New York and SE Maine Lacking from most of South Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plains and Lower Mississippi Valley
Comments	This hickory is distinct because of its bark, sections of which peel away from the trunk (giving the species its common name). The leaves usually have five leaflets that are mostly smooth except for fine hairs present along the teeth at the edges. Shagbark hickory grows both on upland slopes and well-drained lowlands. Blooming takes place in spring; the male flowers, borne on catkins, release their copious wind-blown pollen that fertilizes the few female flowers found near the ends of the twigs. The nuts are sweet and enclosed within a moderately-thin husk.	



White Hickory

Genus/species	<i>Carya alba</i>
Family	Juglandaceae
Distribution	Eastern US SW New Hampshire southward to central Florida Central Florida westward to central Texas Central Texas northeastward to SE Iowa SE Iowa eastward to SW New Hampshire Lacking from most of Lower Mississippi Valley

Comments This hickory has rather small hard nuts enclosed within thick husks, hence the other common name Mockernut Hickory. It is the most commonly-encountered hickory in the southern part of the US. Although the trees grow best in rich, well-drained soils, they are sometimes found on dry hillsides. The wood is especially suitable for making tool handles. The leaves have 5 or 7 leaflets and are rather hairy. The bark has a fine net-like pattern. The abundant wind-blown pollen is released from catkins in the spring, and the nuts, which form near the ends of the twigs, develop throughout the summer.



Oneseed Juniper

Genus/species *Juniperus monosperma*

Family **Cupressaceae**

Distribution **Southwestern US** Central Arizona eastward to W and NW Texas
W Texas northwestward to central Colorado
Central Colorado southwestward to central Arizona

Comments This species has a wide distribution in the interior Southwest, centered in New Mexico where it forms extensive woodlands with pinyon pine and wavyleaf oak, but mingling with other species closer to the edges of its range. It grows mostly above the grasslands and below the ponderosa pine forest, ranging from 3000 to over 7000 feet in elevation. It can be found growing on plains, plateaus and hilly areas within its range, sometimes occurring on rocky breaks within the plains such as in extreme western Oklahoma. Oneseed Juniper has tiny blue-green leaves reduced to scales, similar to those of many other species of juniper. It gets to be a large shrub or small tree, rarely over 40 feet in height. It blooms in early spring from tiny but numerous pollen cones and female cones, formed on separate trees, resemble dark blue or coppery-colored berries and contain only a single seed. The abundant pollen is carried by wind. This species is rarely cultivated.



Pinchot Juniper

Genus/species	<i>Juniperus pinchotii</i>
Family	Cupressaceae
Distribution	South central US SW Oklahoma and Texas Panhandle southward to central Texas Central and western Texas to SE New Mexico
Comments	This species, sometimes called Red-Berry Juniper, is a shrub or small tree generally less than 25 feet tall whose range is almost entirely restricted to Texas. It is typically found in soils where limestone or gypsum is at or near the surface, such as the Caprock vicinity and other broken areas near or within the High Plains. Its yellow green foliage is comprised of overlapping scale-like leaves. It blooms in early spring from tiny but numerous pollen cones and its female cones resemble bright red berries that mature in one growing season. The abundant pollen is carried by the wind.



Rocky Mountain Juniper

Genus/species *Juniperus scopulorum*

Family **Cupressaceae**

Distribution **Western US** NW Washington eastward to W North Dakota
W North Dakota southward to W Texas
W Texas northwestward to S Nevada
S Nevada northwestward to NW Washington

Comments Rocky Mountain Juniper is most abundant in the Rocky Mountains as the name suggests, but it has a spotty distribution in many other areas from well within the Great Plains to the Pacific Northwest and eastern Great Basin. It is the western vicariant of the Eastern Red Cedar and sometimes hybridizes with it where the ranges meet in the northern plains. This large shrub or small tree (less than about 50 feet in height) occupies the lowest wooded zone above grasslands and generally below the pine forests. It may range from sea level up to some 9000 feet in elevation. Trees vary considerably but often have a pyramidal shape. The leaves typically resemble small scales. The tiny male cones are usually produced on separate trees from the bright blue berry-like fruit, which ripens after two seasons. The abundant pollen is carried by the wind.



Utah Juniper

Genus/species *Juniperus osteosperma*

Family **Cupressaceae**

Distribution **Interior Western US** Eastern California northeastward to SE Idaho and south central Montana
South central Montana southward to west central New Mexico
West central New Mexico northwestward to eastern California

Comments Utah Juniper is the most abundant and widespread juniper between the Continental Divide and the Sierra Nevada, and is the only juniper in most of the Great Basin. In the eastern part of its much, it is likely to be associated with such species as Colorado Pinyon and Gambel Oak, but in the western regions Oneleaf Pinyon is likely to be the common associate. This large shrub or small tree (less than 30 feet in height) occupies the lowest woodland zone above open stands of Common Sagebrush and below forest trees such as Ponderosa Pine. It is found from around 3000 feet to over 8000 feet. The leaves typically resemble small scales. The tiny male cones are usually produced on separate trees from the berry-like fruit, which ripens after two seasons and has a mealy texture. The abundant pollen is spread by wind.



Western Juniper

Genus/species *Juniperus occidentalis*

Family **Cupressaceae**

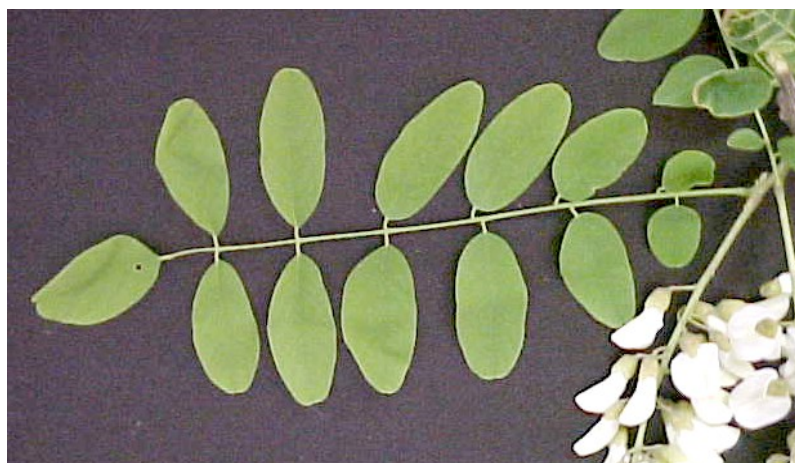
Distribution **Western US** Central and southeastern Washington
Central and eastern Oregon
Northern and eastern California
NW Nevada and SW Idaho

Comments This species, sometimes called Sierra Juniper, has a rather extensive range in the West Coast region, and two forms are recognized. One typically is found at moderate elevations of central Oregon (the Oregon “High Desert”) and sections of adjacent states while the other is found as rugged individuals high in the Sierra Nevada of California. In the first case it forms extensive “polka-dotted” woodlands on the lava plains accompanied by Common Sagebrush. However, in the Sierra Nevada, the scattered, picturesque trees survive for centuries in extremely rocky areas (sometimes approaching 80 feet in height and developing massive, gnarled trunks) with few, if any, other trees, and evidence suggests that the seeds are spread in bird droppings. In both areas the climate is relatively dry with cold winters. Leaves resemble tiny green scales. Western Juniper blooms in early spring from tiny but numerous pollen cones and its female cones, produced on separate trees, resemble light blue berries and take two years to develop. The abundant pollen is carried by the wind.



Black Locust

Genus/species	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>
Family	Papilionaceae (=Fabaceae in part)
Distribution	Eastern US Central Alabama northeastward to SW Ohio and central Pennsylvania Disjunct population from SE Oklahoma to east central Missouri Isolated areas of S Illinois and S Indiana
Comments	Black Locust is commonly cultivated for its showy white flowers, so the natural range has been expanded greatly. It becomes a medium sized tree often seen along roadsides, especially in moist soils underlain by limestone. The leaves are compound with relatively small leaflets. The white flowers, which bloom in spring, hang in clusters from the twigs. Although the flowers are insect-pollinated, the pollen presents an occasional allergy hazard. The seed pods rather resemble flattened pea pods.



Coast Maple

Genus/species *Acer macrophyllum*

Family **Aceraceae**

Distribution **West Coast of US** NW Washington (including Olympic Peninsula)
southward to SW California
Northern and central Sierra Nevada of California

Comments This maple has the largest leaves of any maple, often measuring a full foot in width; therefore, the species is also known as Bigleaf Maple. It is typically found, along with other species, where the climate is mild, with moderately-warm summers and winters that are not harsh due to prevailing winds from the Pacific Ocean. In the southern part of its range (particularly the southern half of California), it is restricted to streamsides and moist canyons. It thrives in the rich moist soil of valleys and foothills. Because it develops a thick, full crown, it is very popular as an ornamental shade tree. It is the only native maple in the Pacific Northwest that grows to be a large tree, approaching 100 feet in height with a trunk to 3 feet in diameter.

Male and female flowers are produced in the same greenish-yellow clusters in the spring, and the winged seeds are produced later. The seeds are usually in V-shaped pairs or occasionally triplets, and the seed coats have short hairs, which is unusual for maples. The petiole or leaf stem of this species contains a milky juice, unlike all the other native maples.



Red Maple

Genus/species	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	
Family	Aceraceae	(all maples, including box elder, and Chinese <i>Dipteronia</i>)
Distribution	Eastern US	E Texas northward to Minnesota Minnesota eastward to Maine Maine southward to S Florida Absent from Iowa, N Missouri and central Illinois
Comments	This is a common deciduous tree found in many kinds of forests, but favoring those that are rather moist. It is prized as an ornamental. This tree earns the name “red” because the following are of this color: young twigs, flowers, winged pairs of seeds, immature leaves, autumn leaves. The flowers form in the early spring before the leaves, and they are at least partially insect-pollinated.	



Soft Maple *or* Silver Maple

Genus/species	<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	
Family	Aceraceae (all maples, including box elder, and Chinese <i>Dipteronia</i>)	
Distribution	Eastern US	E Oklahoma northward to Minnesota Minnesota eastward to Maine Maine southward to NW Florida Absent from much of Atlantic Coastal Plain Scattered localities in Louisiana
Comments	Silver maple grows rapidly and is found in wet areas such as floodplains. It is often used in landscaping but is brittle and often becomes hollow due to decay. The flowers are produced in early spring before the leaves, and the seeds, with their attached wings, are the largest of any of the American maples. Autumn leaves are generally yellow.	



Sugar Maple *or* Hard Maple

Genus/species *Acer saccharum*

Family **Aceraceae**

Distribution	Eastern US	Minnesota eastward to Maine Maine southwestward to W North Carolina W North Carolina westward to E Kansas E Kansas northward through E Iowa to Minnesota
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Comments	Sugar Maple is widely planted as an ornamental. It likes rich, well-drained soils. It is tapped for its sweet sap from which syrup and sugar are made. The leaf is the inspiration for the Canadian Maple Leaf emblem. Flowers form in the spring and the paired seeds ripen during the summer.
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Closely-related species include the Black Maple (*Acer nigrum*) of the Midwest, the Bigtooth Maple (*Acer grandidentatum*) of the Rocky Mountain area, the Southern Sugar Maple (*Acer barbatum*) and the Chalk (Whitebark) Maple (*Acer leucoderme*).



Melaleuca

Genus/species: *Melaleuca quinquenervia*

Family: Myrtaceae

Distribution: Florida, California central and southern Florida
coastal southern California

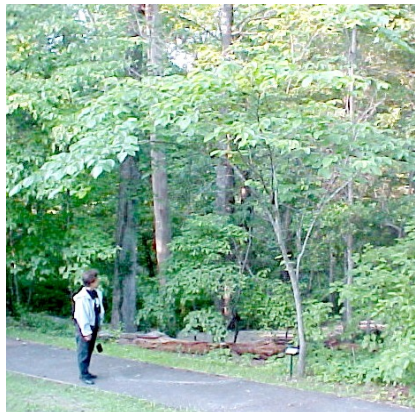
Comments: This small exotic tree, introduced from Australia where it is known as Paperbark, has aggressively established itself throughout much of the area between the center of Florida and Lake Okeechobee by forming dense pure stands, especially in moist areas, where it is sometimes called Cajeput Tree or Punk Tree. It also can be found in extreme southern Florida, and it is cultivated in coastal southern California.

Melaleuca has leaves about 2 to 4 inches long and not wider than an inch. The white flowers, which are comprised mostly of long conspicuous stamens but no petals, are in clusters resembling a bottlebrush, and mature to form small seed capsules. The bark is mottled and pinkish-white to pale yellow and resembles layers of thin paper weathering from the tree. Its pollen is apparently unimportant from the standpoint of human allergy but important for canine allergy.



Red Mulberry

Genus/species	<i>Morus rubra</i>
Family	Moraceae
Distribution	Eastern US Central Texas eastward to S Florida S Florida northward to New Jersey New Jersey westward to SE Minnesota SE Minnesota southwestward to central Texas Scattered localities in Pennsylvania, New York and New England
Comments	This is the only native mulberry throughout its range except for the extreme southwestern part. It is a relatively small or medium-sized tree, sporadically distributed in lowland areas and flood plains. Leaves vary in size but may exceed four inches in length, and may be entire or have one or two lobes; the undersides are lighter than the upper surfaces. Male and female flowers are produced on separate trees in the spring, pollination is achieved by wind, and the fleshy fruits ripen during the summer when they are eagerly sought by wildlife.



White Mulberry

Genus/species *Morus alba*

Family Moraceae

Distribution Introduced into US from eastern Asia; widely planted; naturalized in both eastern and western US except Arizona and Nevada

Comments This small tree, native to China, was introduced into the US as part of an attempt to establish the silkworm industry. It has shiny leaves that are often lobed, and male and female flowers appear in the spring, usually on separate trees. Pollen is spread by wind. Each fruit, about an inch long, contains several small sections, and these mature in summer, sometimes white but often to a pale pink or even a darker shade of red. This species also tends to hybridize with the red mulberry.



Arizona Oak *or* Gambel Oak

Genus/species *Quercus gambelii*

Family **Fagaceae**

Distribution **Western US** S Nevada northeastward to N Utah and southcentral Wyoming
Southcentral Wyoming southward to W Texas
W Texas through SE and central Arizona to S Nevada

Comments This oak is the “white oak” of the southern Rocky Mountain region. It is usually a small tree or a large shrub, and it grows in foothills and canyons, sometimes covering an entire hillside. It is typically found below or in the lowest forest zones of the mountains, sometimes in the ponderosa pine belt. Its leaves have rounded lobes, dark green on top and lighter underneath, and the acorns, which mature in one season, are relatively small. Pollination, achieved by wind, takes place in the early spring, the male flowers being on catkins and the female developing from the bases of the leaves.



Black Oak

Genus/species	<i>Quercus velutina</i>
Family	Fagaceae
Distribution	Eastern US E Texas northward to central Iowa and S Wisconsin S Wisconsin eastward to S Maine S Maine southward to coastal South Carolina and W Florida W Florida westward to E Texas
Comments	Black Oak is an eastern species typically found in rather dry soils such as those on sunny hillsides and ridges. The leaves have pointed lobes and are typically “fuzzy” underneath, especially early in the season, but this becomes reduced to the areas around the veins. The acorns, which mature in two seasons, are medium-sized (about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long) with a cap covering almost half the nut. As is true of all the oaks, the flowers bloom in the spring, with the male flowers forming on catkins, producing abundant wind-dispersed pollen, and the rather inconspicuous female flowers located at the bases of the leaves. The bark on mature trees is broken into small dark plates.



Bur Oak

Genus/Species	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>
Family	Fagaceae
Distribution	Central US Central Texas northward to North Dakota and SE Montana North Dakota eastward to NW New York NW New York southwestward to central Arkansas, extending through E Oklahoma to central Texas Smaller areas in Pennsylvania and New England states
Comments	Bur Oak is a characteristic species of the central US. It tends to grow on flood plains in the southern part of its range while being more of an upland species northward, often growing in open woodlands or prairies. It gets to be a medium-sized to large tree, depending upon location. The dark green leaves are lighter underneath and have rounded lobes; often, the leaves have a distinct indentation about halfway on each side, making them look as though they had been “pinched” in the middle. Flowers are produced in the spring, the male on catkins and the female along the twigs. The abundant pollen is dispersed by wind. The acorns have a distinct “fringe” at the edge of the cup (accounting for another common name—Mossy Cup Oak), and they are usually large (often exceeding an inch in diameter), especially in the southern part of their range, and mature in one season.



California Black Oak

Genus/species *Quercus kelloggii*

Family **Fagaceae**

Distribution **Southwestern Coast of US** SW Oregon southward to SW California

Comments California Black Oak is an important member of the mixed forests of both the coastal ranges and the Sierra Nevada of California, with smaller populations in southern California. It is typically found at middle elevations (about 3500 to 7500 feet) along with several species of conifers, often in rocky sites, but occasional trees can be found from about 1000 to nearly 9000 feet. The trunk may be a couple feet in diameter, with rough dark-colored bark, and the tree may be some 70 feet tall. The leaves are broad and up to about 10 inches long having wide lobes with sharp points. The acorns, which mature in two seasons, are rather large (sometimes over inch long) and broad, with a cap covering almost half the nut. As is true of all the oaks, the flowers bloom in the spring, with the male flowers forming on pendulant catkins and the rather inconspicuous female flowers at the bases of the leaves. The abundant pollen is spread by the wind. The autumn leaves add color that contrasts with the green of the associated pines and other conifers.



California Live Oak

Genus/species *Quercus agrifolia*

Family **Fagaceae**

Distribution **California** West central southward to southwestern California

Comments California Live Oak, also known as Coast Live Oak, is a picturesque species that often forms open woodlands against the grassy hills and valleys of the coastal ranges of central and southern California. This tree is often gnarled, having large branches or even trunks that grow at unexpected angles. The dense crown of this oak may be wider than the height. The small, rather holly-like thick evergreen leaves are mostly concave underneath with short points. The flowers are produced in the spring, with the male on hanging catkins and the female along the twigs. The abundant pollen is carried by wind. The latter develop into pointed acorns, about an inch long, that mature in one season.



California White Oak

Genus/species *Quercus lobata*

Family **Fagaceae**

Distribution **California** North central southward to southern California

Comments California White Oak, also known as Valley Oak, is a picturesque species that often forms open woodlands against the grassy hills and valleys of the coastal ranges of central California and along some of the rivers and streams of the north central part of the state, including the Sacramento River. This tree can get to be very large—over 100 feet in height with a trunk of 6 feet or more in diameter—with light gray finely-ridged or plated bark and branches that droop from a spreading crown. The rather thick leaves with rounded lobes are deciduous. The flowers are produced in the spring, with the male on hanging catkins and the female along the twigs. The abundant pollen is disseminated by the wind. The female flowers develop into the impressive pointed acorns that mature in one season and may be two inches long.



Live Oak

Genus/species *Quercus virginiana*

Family **Fagaceae**

Distribution **SE and SC US** Extreme SE Virginia southward along coast
to S Florida
Florida westward to central Texas

Comments This tree is called “live oak” because of its having evergreen leaves in areas of the country where nearly all other large oaks are deciduous. It is sometimes referred to as southern live oak or Virginia live oak to distinguish it from other evergreen species of oaks, mostly those found in California. It is widely-planted in areas inland of its natural range because of its broad crown of dark green evergreen leaves, sometimes festooned with Spanish moss. It has a distinctly checkered dark gray bark on a short, sometimes rather gnarled, trunk. The thick leathery leaves are usually oval, occasionally with a short pointed lobe or two. The branches mostly grow sideways and, on large old trees, may hang down enough to touch the ground. The abundant wind-borne pollen is released from male catkins in the spring; the rather inconspicuous female flowers mature into acorns at the end of the season.



Post Oak

Genus/species	<i>Quercus stellata</i>
Family	Fagaceae
Distribution	Southeastern US SE and west central Texas northeastward to SE Iowa SE Iowa eastward to SE Massachusetts SE Massachusetts southward to central Florida Central Florida westward to Texas

Comments Post Oak is a component of many kinds of forests and woodlands, especially those that have rather dry soil. It ranges from the sandy pinelands of the East Coast to the “Cross Timbers” of Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas where it is very abundant. Its rather light-gray bark is composed of thick flakes, and the distinctive leaves are often cross-shaped. Post Oak becomes a rather large tree in the East but is smaller in the westernmost parts of its range. Flowers are produced in the spring, the male on catkins and the female along the twigs. The abundant pollen is dispersed by wind. The acorns mature in one season



Red Oak

Genus/species	<i>Quercus rubra</i>
Family	Fagaceae
Distribution	Eastern US SE Oklahoma northward to N Minnesota N Minnesota eastward to N Maine N Maine southwestward to NE North Carolina and S Alabama S Alabama northwestward to SE Oklahoma
Comments	Red Oak, also known Northern Red Oak, is an eastern species typically found in deep, fine soils found in valleys and protected slopes. Stands may develop composed mostly of this species. The leaves have pointed lobes and are typically smooth underneath. The acorns, which mature in two seasons, are medium-sized (about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch or so long) with a cap covering just the base of the nut. As is true of all the oaks, the flowers bloom in the spring, with the male flowers forming on catkins and releasing abundant wind-borne pollen and the rather inconspicuous female flowers forming at the bases of the leaves. The bark on mature trees is broken into small dark scales while younger trees and branches have smooth, gray bark. On some trees “transitional” areas where the smooth bark is cracking to form the mature bark may appear somewhat like vertical stripes.



Scrub Oak

Genus/species *Quercus dumosa*

Family **Fagaceae**

Distribution **California** West central southward to southwestern California

Comments Scrub Oak, also known as California Scrub Oak, is usually a shrub, rarely becoming a small tree. According to some authorities, there are as many as four distinct but very similar species “lumped” together under this name, each having somewhat different ecological requirements ranging from the bluffs along the Pacific Coast to the edges of the deserts. In any case, Scrub Oak is a member of the white oak group and its acorns ripen in the same year that pollination occurs. Male flowers are formed in catkins and their abundant wind-borne pollen fertilizes the female flowers inconspicuously located along the twig near the bases of the developing leaves. The leaves are small, often somewhat wrinkled, and have short rather pointed lobes. The caps of the acorns cover only a small portion of the nut.



Water Oak

Genus/species	<i>Quercus nigra</i>
Family	Fagaceae
Distribution	Southeastern US E Texas eastward to central Florida Central Florida northward to S New Jersey S New Jersey southwestward to SE Missouri SE Missouri southwestward to E Texas

Comments Water Oak typically grows to become a medium-sized or large tree along streams of the Piedmont areas and in the flood plains of the Coastal Plain of the southeastern US. However, it prefers well-drained soils within these areas and often grows with a mixture of pines and hardwoods. It is also often used as a street tree within its range. The small leaves, some of which may remain on the trees well into the winter, typically have slight lobes near their ends although those on immature trees are often more distinctly lobed. The male flowers, which form in the early spring on numerous catkins, release their abundant wind-borne pollen; the inconspicuous female flowers take two years to ripen into the small, rounded acorns. Branches of this species are often attacked by mistletoe in some areas.



Western White Oak

Genus/species *Quercus garryana*

Family **Fagaceae**

Distribution **West Coast of US** West-central California northward to NW Washington
Columbia River Valley of Oregon and Washington
Southern Sierra Nevada of California

Comments Western White Oak (also known as Oregon White Oak or Garry Oak) may form open woodlands in the rather dry interior valleys or grow in relatively closed forests with other kinds of trees in areas closer to the coast. (However, it is not found in the forests closest to the coast.) It can become a large tree. It has rather thick lobed leaves that are dark green above and a lighter bluish-green below. The acorns, which mature in one season, are fairly large and almost round with a cap covering a small portion at the base. As is true of all the oaks, the flowers bloom in the spring and the abundant pollen is spread by wind. The male flowers form on catkins while the rather inconspicuous female flowers develop at the bases of the leaves.



White Oak

Genus/species *Quercus alba*

Family Fagaceae

Distribution **Eastern US** SE Minnesota eastward to S Maine
S Maine southward to N Florida
N Florida westward to E Texas
E Texas northward to E Minnesota

Comments White Oak is a component of many kinds of forests, especially those that have moderately moist soil and have been allowed to mature over a long period of time. The rather light-gray bark is composed of thick flakes, and the distinctive bluish-green leaves have rounded lobes. White Oak becomes a large, rounded tree. The abundant wind-borne pollen is shed from catkins in the spring, and the female flowers ripen into acorns in the fall of the same year.



Olive

Genus/species	<i>Olea europaea</i>
Family	Oleaceae
Distribution	California, S Arizona, New Mexico, Texas and Hawaii; introduced from eastern Mediterranean region
Comments	Olive is a large shrub or small evergreen tree cultivated for thousands of years in the Mediterranean Region, where it is native. It was introduced into the US, but nearly all commercial production of fruit and oil is done in California. It is also used for landscaping purposes, and in Hawaii (Maui, Hawaii and Kauai) it has become naturalized; such introductions result in additional cases of allergy. Its small, narrow dark green leaves approach 2 inches in length but less than half an inch wide, and are arranged in pairs. The tiny fragrant whitish flowers are produced at the ends of the twigs in clusters. The fruits, typically about an inch long, develop and ripen about 6-8 months after flowering.



Pepper Tree

Genus/species	<i>Schinus molle</i>
Family	Anacardiaceae
Distribution	Southwestern US California southeastward to W Texas
Comments	<p>Introduced and naturalized in California and occasionally other areas in the southwestern US, this Pepper Tree is native to Peru. Pepper Tree has hanging compound leaves with narrow leaflets an inch or two long, and the tiny, green, rather inconspicuous male and female flowers are produced on separate trees in the summer. The small pinkish-red fruit are less than a fourth of an inch in diameter and hang in clusters in the fall and winter; these have been used in many kinds of herbal and folk medicine.</p> <p>There are other species in this genus, such as the Brazilian Pepper Tree (<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i>) that has become naturalized in Florida.</p>



Eastern White Pine

Genus/species	<i>Pinus strobus</i>	
Family	Pinaceae	
Distribution	Eastern US	N Georgia northward along mountains to New Jersey, including E Tennessee and E Kentucky Throughout Pennsylvania, New York and New England E Ohio, NE Iowa, and most of Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota
Comments	This is the only native eastern “soft” pine. Its needles are very flexible, appearing bluish-green and in bundles of 5. Its rather narrow female cones are not prickly. It can become a large tree and does best in moderately moist but well-drained soil, and is often cultivated as an ornamental. Its wind-blown pollen is produced in rather large quantities from small male catkins in the spring, and the female or seed cones ripen after their second summer of growth.	

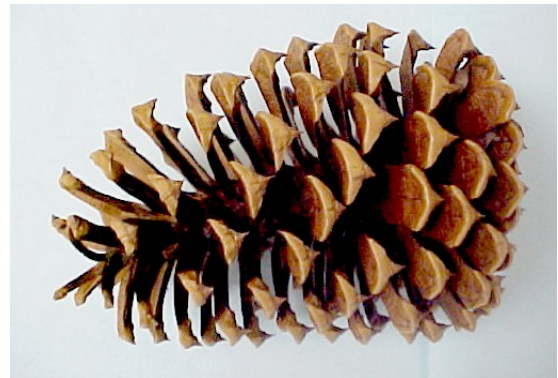


Loblolly Pine

Genus/species	<i>Pinus taeda</i>
Family	Pinaceae
Distribution	Southeastern US Central Florida westward to eastern Texas Eastern Texas through Gulf Coast states, Georgia and South Carolina to central North Carolina Central North Carolina northward along Atlantic Coastal Plain to southern Delaware Absent from Lower Mississippi Valley

Comments Loblolly pine is cultivated well outside its natural range for its wood and as an ornamental, thus obscuring its natural distribution. It is the most common pine in much of its range, and grows in a variety of habitats, often “pioneering” in old fields. It avoids very wet areas as well as extremely dry soils.

This species has thin yellow-green needles in bundles of 3 and are usually about 12 to 18 cm long. The tiny male (pollen) cones are orange-yellow and appear in clusters in the spring, and they release large quantities of wind-blown pollen. The female (seed) cones mature at about 10 to 15 cm long.



Longleaf Pine

Genus/species	<i>Pinus palustris</i>
Family	Pinaceae
Distribution	Southeastern US SE Virginia southward to S Florida Florida westward to E Texas E Texas to north central Alabama North central Alabama eastward to SE Virginia

Comments Longleaf pine is typically found in dry sandy areas of the coastal plains and sand hills, but grows up in some of the mountains of Alabama and western Georgia. Young trees form a large tuft of foliage called the “grass stage” before growing upward. In the spring, the elongated buds look like white “candles” before the new leaves develop. The leaves are bright green, often a foot in length and are grouped in 3s. The purplish male (pollen) cones are about 2 inches long and develop in clusters in the spring, releasing large quantities of wind-blown pollen. The female (seed) cones may be 8 or more inches long. Longleaf pine has both the longest needles and the largest seed cones of all conifers of the eastern US.



Ponderosa Pine

Genus/species *Pinus ponderosa*

Family Pinaceae

Distribution **Western US**
W Washington southward to SW California
SW California eastward to W Texas
W Texas northward to SW North Dakota
SW North Dakota westward to W Washington

Comments This tree is occasionally called Western Yellow Pine. Although it is widely distributed in the western half of the US, there are many areas within this range where the species is lacking. Larger specimens are tall, narrow trees growing to well over 100 feet with a trunk that may exceed 4 or 5 feet in diameter. The bark is reddish-brown and plated, with smaller sections shaped like jigsaw puzzle pieces often falling off. There are at least two different races of this species; trees in the western part of its range, such as in California, tend to be much taller with longer leaves than those from the eastern part such as in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. Although somewhat variable, the dark yellow-green leaves are usually in groups of three and are range from about 4 to 8 inches in length. The abundant wind-blown pollen is released from tiny male cones in the spring, and the larger female cones are from about 3 to 5 inches long and about 2.5 to 3 inches wide.

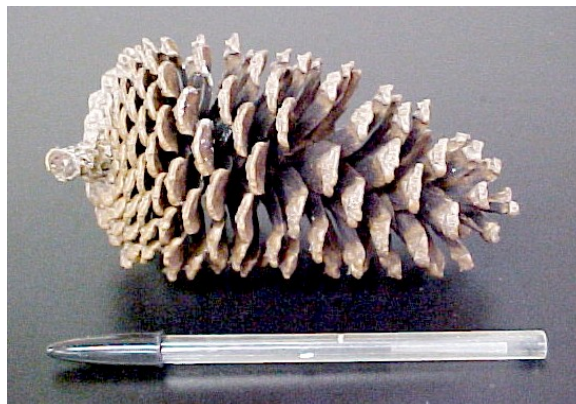


Slash Pine

Genus/species	<i>Pinus elliottii</i>
Family	Pinaceae
Distribution	Southeastern US SE Louisiana northeastward to SE South Carolina SE South Carolina southward to N Florida N Florida westward to SE Louisiana Most of peninsular Florida

Comments Slash pine looks like a tree that “can’t decide whether it wants to be a loblolly pine or a longleaf pine”. Its long light green needles are usually grouped in pairs and are about 8 to 10 inches long. Its purple (male) pollen cones, which release large quantities of wind-blown pollen, develop in the early spring and the dark brown (female) seed cones, about 5 inches long, are attached to the twigs by means of a short, thick stalk.

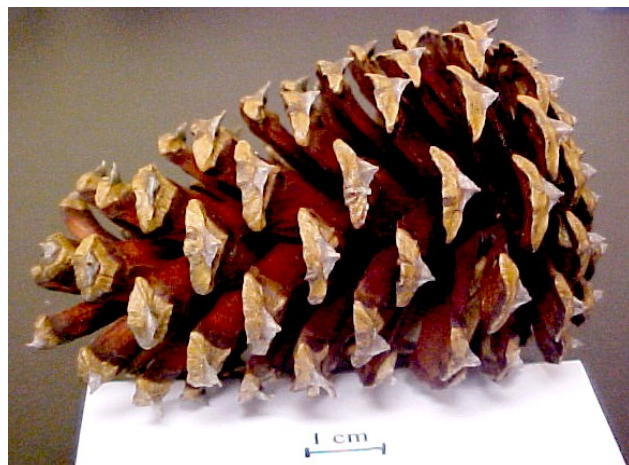
This species is cultivated inland and north of its natural range; such trees are sometimes damaged severely by ice storms. It is also widely planted for wood and turpentine. Trees in extreme southern Florida and the Florida Keys are considered to be the variety *densa*.



Virginia Pine *or* Scrub Pine

Genus/species	<i>Pinus virginiana</i>
Family	Pinaceae (includes spruces, hemlocks, firs, larches and others)
Distribution	Eastern US W Long Island southward to NE South Carolina NE South Carolina westward through central Alabama to NE Mississippi NE Mississippi northward to S Indiana S Indiana eastward through central Pennsylvania to Long Island

Comments This pine grows to be a rather thin, scraggly tree and aggressively establishes itself on poor, dry upland soils. Its twisted needles are in pairs and about 5 to 8 cm long. The mature female cones are rather prickly and from about 4 to 8 cm long. In the spring, its yellow or pinkish male cones produce copious amounts of wind-blown pollen, and the female flowers (*i. e.*, immature cones) appear along the sides of the young shoots.



Yellow Pine

Genus/species *Pinus echinata*

Family **Pinaceae**

Distribution **Eastern US** E Texas eastward to N Florida
N Florida northward to S New Jersey
S New Jersey westward to S Illinois
S Illinois southward to E Texas
Absent from Lower Mississippi Valley

Comments This tree is also known as Shortleaf Pine in the southern parts of its range because it has markedly shorter leaves than the associated Loblolly, Longleaf or Slash Pines that also used for timber. However, its range extends further inland and northward where these longer-leaved species do not grow, so the name Yellow Pine is more meaningful in such areas. This species becomes a straight, tall tree in forests but is more spreading if grown in the open.

The yellowish-green leaves are about 3 or 4 inches long, somewhat twisted and in pairs. The tiny yellowish male cones produce their abundant wind-blown pollen in the spring and the rather prickly (*echinata* = prickly) female cones are about 2 to 3 inches long.



False Ragweed

Genus/species	<i>Ambrosia acanthicarpa</i>
Family	Asteraceae
Distribution	Western US W Texas northward to central North Dakota Central North Dakota westward to SE Washington SE Washington southward to S Nevada S Nevada eastward to W Texas with an extension into S California
Comments	This native species is a common weedy plant. In addition to its aggressiveness in establishing itself along roadsides and the allergenicity of its pollen, the seeds are contained in prickly “burs” that detach easily from the plant and become attached to skin, clothing and fur. False ragweed can exceed three feet in height, sometimes becoming bushy, and its bipinnately lobed (<i>i. e.</i> , lobes on the lobes) leaves (rather similar to those of the short ragweed though usually smaller and less-developed) are somewhat grayish in color. It produces enormous numbers of pollen grains that stay airborne. They are opposite on young plants but leaves produced later are alternate. The plant blooms in late summer and early autumn. The numerous greenish-yellow male flowers are along spikes found at the top of each branch above the spiny female flowers.



Giant Ragweed

Genus/species	<i>Ambrosia trifida</i>
Family	Asteraceae (Compositae)
Distribution	Eastern two-thirds of US Central Montana eastward to Maine Maine southward to NW Florida Florida westward to W Texas W Texas N to central Montana Additional population in SE Arizona
Comments	This impressive native annual weed can grow to be over 4 m tall. It is especially abundant in wet areas such as sandbars along rivers. The larger leaves usually have 3 points, occasionally five. The plant blooms in late summer and early autumn. The numerous male flowers, which produce copious pollen, are along spikes found at the top of each branch. There are relatively few female flowers that are inconspicuous and found below the male.



Short Ragweed

Genus/species	<i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i>
Family	Asteraceae
Distribution	Most of US All states except California, Nevada, Utah, most of Arizona and some adjacent areas of Oregon, Colorado, New Mexico and Wyoming
Comments	This species is the “king” of allergenic plants, being the most important for allergy in America and the most widespread among several species of ragweed. Sometimes called “common” ragweed, it is a native species that aggressively flourishes along roadsides and in disturbed soil. It produces enormous numbers of pollen grains that stay airborne. The leaves are bipinnately lobed, meaning that there are lobes on the lobes. They are opposite on young plants but leaves produced later are alternate. The plant blooms in late summer and early autumn. The numerous greenish-yellow male flowers are along spikes found at the top of each branch above the inconspicuous female flowers. On each branch of the mature plant, the male flowers are arranged in clusters above the inconspicuous female flowers. The plant may grow to be four feet tall but is usually smaller.



Common Sagebrush

Genus/species	<i>Artemisia tridentata</i>
Family	Asteraceae
Distribution	Western US North central Washington southward to S California S California eastward to E New Mexico E New Mexico northward to SW North Dakota SW North Dakota westward to north central Washington Lacking from central and southern Arizona
Comments	This widespread shrub, also known as “big sagebrush” or “basin sagebrush”, is perhaps the most characteristic species covering the valleys of the Intermountain West. It typically grows to be three to five feet in height, but occasionally may reach as much as seven or ten feet where there is additional moisture. It is usually found from about 4000 feet up to as high as 10,000 feet. Where the climate is slightly cooler with additional moisture, junipers and pinyon pines may grow among the sagebrushes. Its grayish, strongly-scented leaves are broadest at the tip where two notches are typically found, giving the “three-toothed” margin that accounts for the specific name. The tiny flower heads occur along spikes that develop in the spring, and the seeds ripen in the fall. The woody trunk is gnarled and usually branched near the base. This species is eaten by antelope and sometimes by deer.



Mugwort

Genus/species	<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>
Family	Asteraceae
Distribution	Eastern and Northwestern United States Minnesota S to Missouri Missouri SE to Florida Florida N to Maine Maine W to Minnesota Introductions to Pacific NW and elsewhere

Comments This is a common introduced weed of roadsides and cultivated areas, and its range may be expanding. The leaves are usually dissected (somewhat resembling those of the cultivated chrysanthemum), of a lighter color underneath, and have a distinct sage scent. The rather nondescript flowers are borne along the stalks, which can get to be 3 or more feet in height. Most plants bloom in the late summer or autumn. However, the plants may form large colonies, spreading mainly by rhizomes.



Sweet Gum

Genus/species	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	
Family	Hamamelidaceae	
Distribution	Eastern US	<p>E Texas eastward to central Florida</p> <p>Florida northward to SE Connecticut</p> <p>Connecticut southwestward to SE Illinois and E Texas</p> <p>Absent from much of Appalachian region</p>
Comments	<p>Sweet Gum is a very distinct species that becomes a large tree under suitable growing conditions, which typically involve moist soils. The leaves are rather star-shaped with their five or seven lobes. Flowers develop in the early spring, with male flowers in small clusters that soon fall from the tree, and female flowers in rounded clusters that ripen into a prickly ball over an inch in diameter. The rather abundant pollen is spread by wind.</p>	



Eastern Sycamore *or* American Sycamore

Genus/species *Platanus occidentalis*

Family: Platanaceae

Distribution **Eastern US** Central Texas eastward to N Florida
N Florida up the Atlantic Coast to S New Hampshire
S New Hampshire westward to SW Wisconsin
and E Nebraska

Comments Eastern Sycamore is a common tree in flood plains along rivers but occasionally grows in drier areas in disturbed soil. It is easily recognized by its light-colored bark that comes off in large flakes as the tree matures. The leaves look much like oversized maple leaves but they have a distinct scent and a brownish “fuzz” that is easily rubbed off. Male and female flowers are produced in separate round clusters. The male flower heads produce substantial quantities of wind-borne pollen before falling from the tree, and the female flower heads enlarge to become seed balls over an inch in diameter that eventually disintegrate and scatter the seeds.



Western Sycamore

Genus/species *Platanus racemosa*

Family: Platanaceae

Distribution **California** North central to south central California, especially coastal two thirds of state

Comments Western Sycamore (also known as California Sycamore) is a tree of flood plains and of moist gullies and canyons. In the southern part of its range it is found from near sea level to over 4000 feet, but northward it is restricted to low elevations. It becomes a large tree easily recognized by its light-colored bark that comes off in large flakes as the tree matures. The leaves look much like oversized maple leaves, with three to five large lobes, but they have a distinct scent and brownish “fuzz” that is easily rubbed off. Male and female flowers are produced in separate round clusters; the males flower heads produce large quantities of wind-borne pollen before falling from the tree while the female flower heads, arranged in a row of 3 to 7 on a stalk, enlarge to become seed balls almost an inch in diameter that eventually disintegrate and scatter the seeds.

The closely-related Arizona Sycamore (*Platanus wrightii*) has somewhat more strongly indented leaves and is found in Arizona and New Mexico.



Black Walnut

Genus/species	<i>Juglans nigra</i>
Family	Juglandaceae
Distribution	<p>Eastern US S New York southward to E North Carolina and NW Florida NW Florida westward to SE Texas SE Texas northward to north central Nebraska and SE South Dakota SE South Dakota eastward to S New York Scattered locations in S New England Absent from much of Pennsylvania, Lower Mississippi Valley, and Gulf and South Atlantic coastal region</p>
Comments	<p>Black Walnut is a widespread large tree commonly found on well-drained soils near streams. It has compound leaves up to two feet long, each having some 15 to 23 leaflets. Male flowers release large amounts of wind-borne pollen in the spring from catkins, and female flowers are produced in small clusters at the tip of the newly-formed twigs. The nuts are formed inside round fruit approximately two inches in diameter. However, the hulls do not split open; the fruit are released as the hull decomposes or are opened by squirrels and other animals. The wood of this tree is prized for the manufacturing of furniture and other items such as rifle stocks.</p>



Black Willow

Genus/species	<i>Salix nigra</i>
Family	Salicaceae
Distribution	Eastern US Central Texas and the Lower Rio Grande Valley eastward to N Florida N Florida northward along the Atlantic Coast to S Maine S Maine westward to SE Minnesota and NE Nebraska NE Nebraska southward to central Texas

Comments Black Willow is the large willow commonly seen along rivers and other wet areas of the eastern US. The light yellowish-green leaves are about 3 to 6 inches in length, narrow and pointed and grow on a spreading irregular crown. The bark on its short trunk becomes furrowed and almost black, sometimes with burls on larger trees. Male and female flowers form in the spring, but on separate trees. Both kinds of flowers are in the form of catkins; the males produce rather abundant wind-dispersed pollen while the female flowers, after fertilization, ripen and release their cottony seeds to the wind.

