

20 Common Trees

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Acer x freemanii

(Freeman maple)



Leaves:

- Opposite
- Leaves vary by cultivar due to hybrid nature of the tree
- Often look like silver maple but more robust

Acer x freemanii

(Freeman maple)



Bark:

- Smooth when young
- Develops splits with age

Acer saccharum (Sugar maple)

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Leaves:

- Opposite
- 3-5 lobes, less sharply pointed than Norway Maple
- lower surface mostly glabrous.
- Great fall color

Acer saccharum

(Sugar maple)



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Flowers:

- Some perfect, some male
- In dangling clusters

Acer saccharum

(Sugar maple)



Fruit:

- Pairs of samaras
- Small, horse shoe shaped

Betula nigra

(River birch)



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Leaves:

- Alternate
- Rhomboid shape
- Doubly serrate

Betula nigra

(River birch)

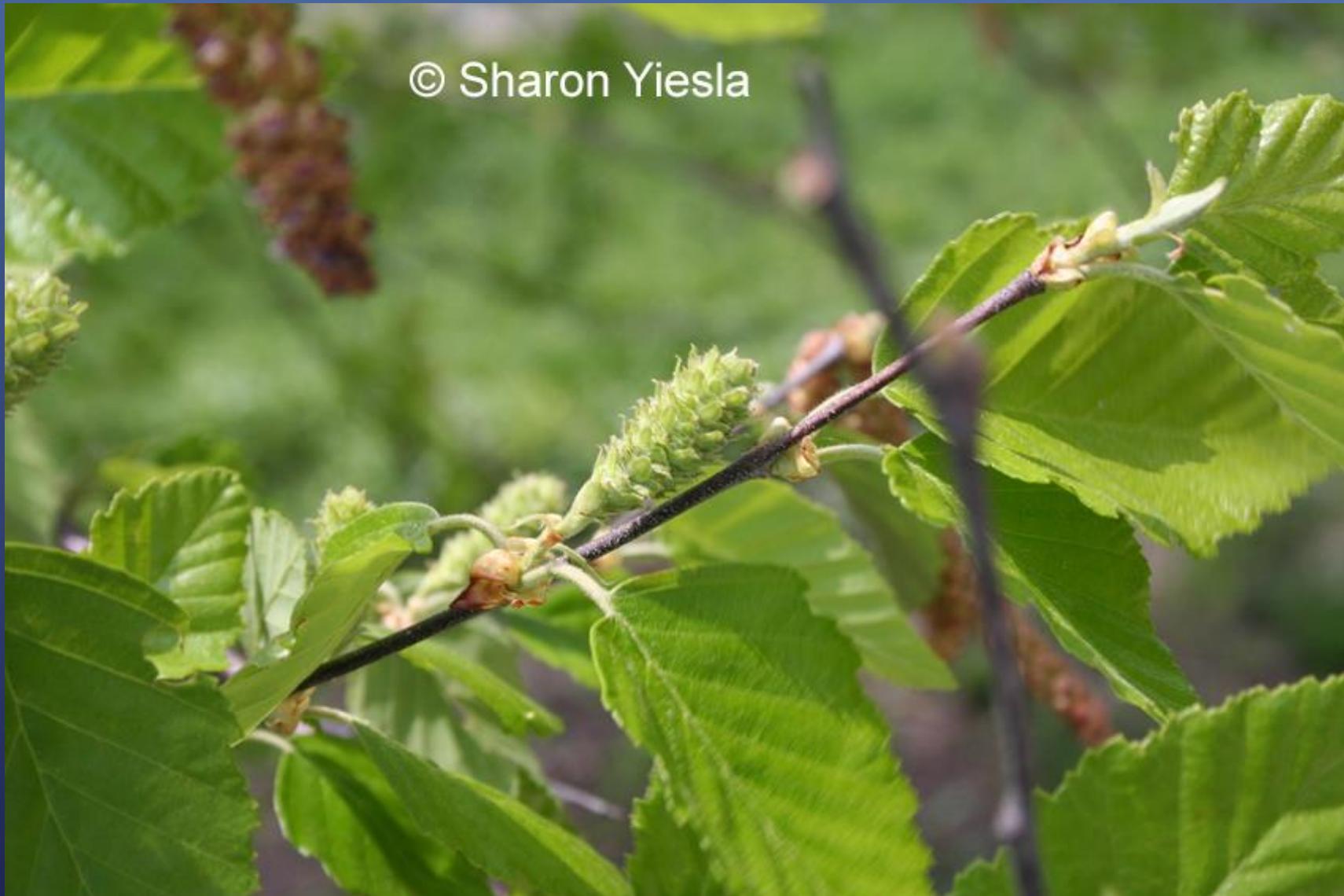


Flowers:

- Monoecious
- Male in pendulous catkin
- Female in upright spike

River birch

(River birch)



Fruit:

- Upright cluster of seeds

Betula nigra

(River birch)



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Other:

- Attractive bark

Carpinus caroliniana (Hornbeam)

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Leaves:

- Alternate
- Ovate
- Doubly toothed

Carpinus caroliniana

(Hornbeam)

Female



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Male



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Flowers:

- Monoecious
- Males in catkins
- Females in small spikes

Carpinus caroliniana (Hornbeam)



© Sharon Yiesla

Fruit:

- Ribbed nutlets
- Subtended by bract
- Pendulous

Carpinus caroliniana

(Hornbeam)



© Sharon Yiesla



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Other:

- Fluted bark
- Good fall color

Catalpa speciosa

(Northern catalpa)



Leaves:

- Opposite or whorled
- Heart shaped
- Entire margin

Catalpa speciosa (Northern catalpa)



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Flowers:

- Perfect
- Large cluster of white flowers marked with yellow and purple

Catalpa speciosa (Northern catalpa)



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Fruit:

- Long capsules
- 8-20 inches
- Seeds with fringed ends (fringe is flat)

Cercidiphyllum japonicum (Katsura)

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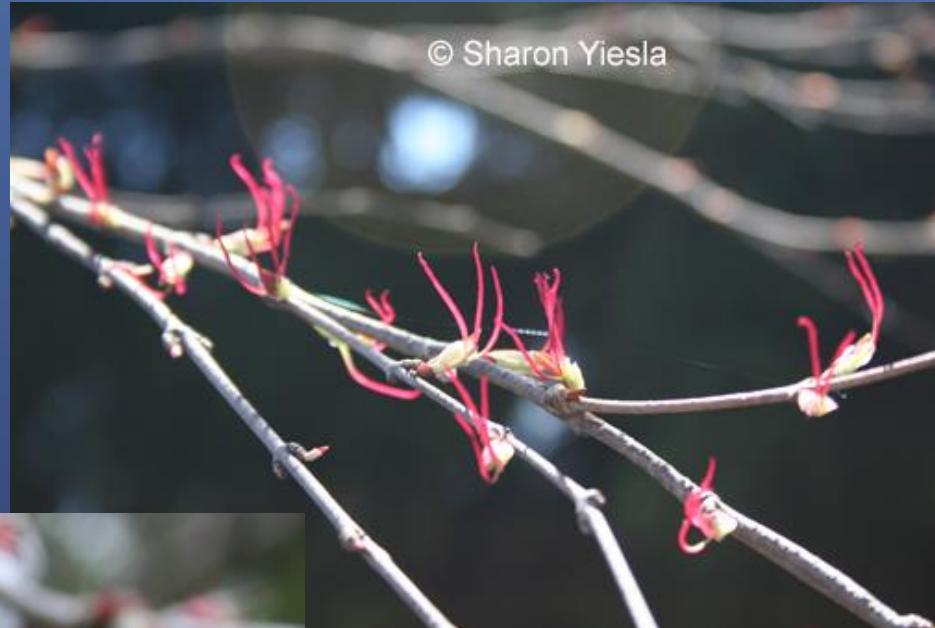


Leaves:

- Opposite or sub-opposite
- Heart shaped
- Scalloped margin

Cercidiphyllum japonicum (Katsura)

female



male



Flowers:

- Dioecious

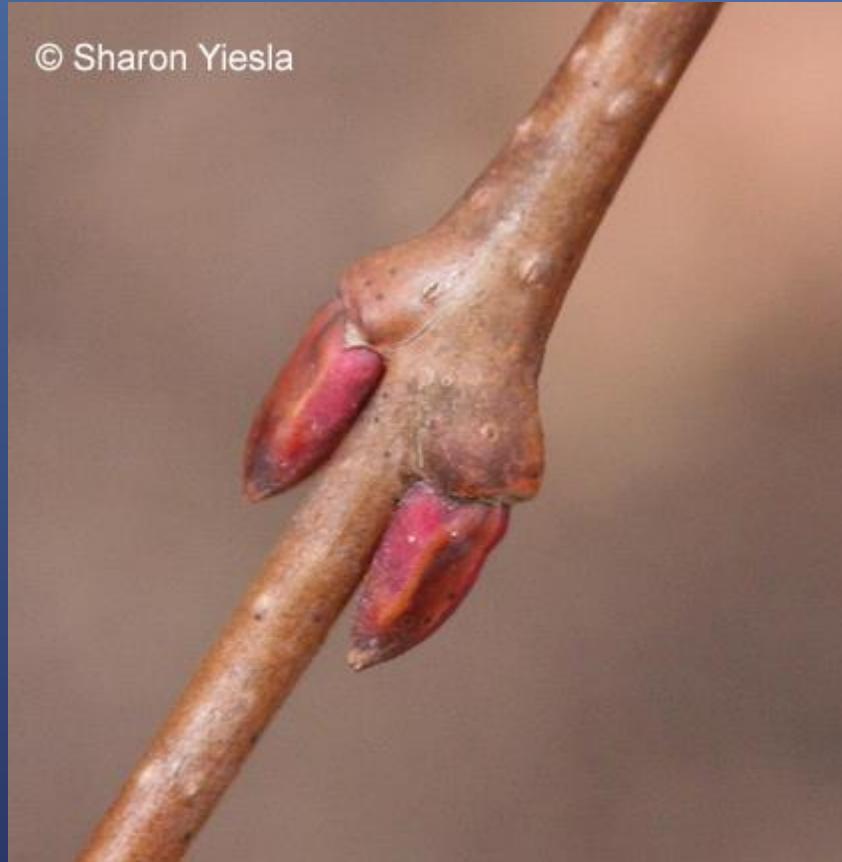
Cercidiphyllum japonicum (Katsura)



Fruit:

- Small follicles
- “Bananas for Barbie”

Cercidiphyllum japonicum (Katsura)

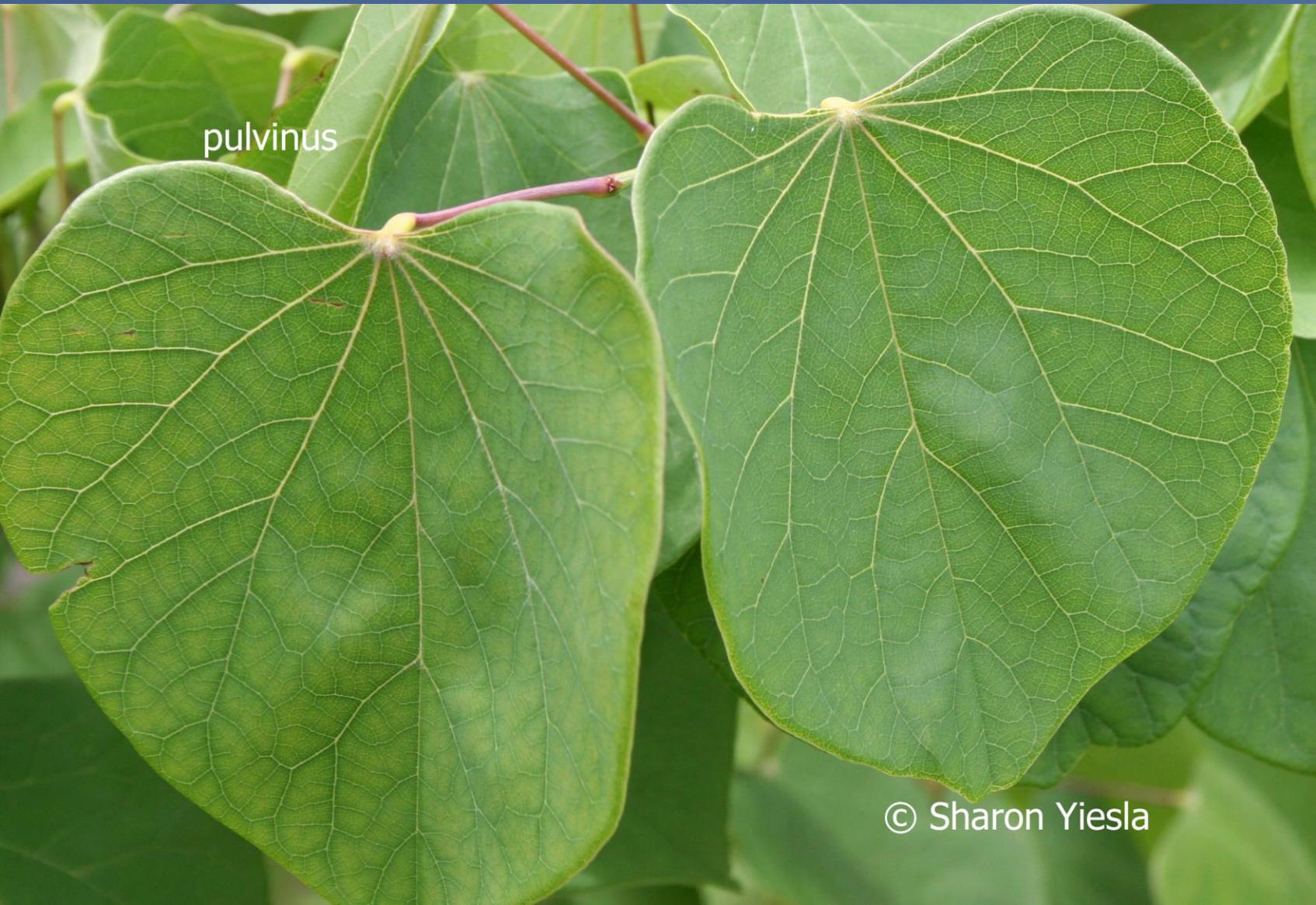


Other:

- Bark is shaggy on older trees
- Bud pink and often sub-opposite
- Great fall color
- Smells like cotton candy in fall

Cercis canadensis

(Redbud)



© Sharon Yiesla

Leaves:

- Alternate
- Heart shaped
- Entire margin

Cercis canadensis

(Redbud)

© Sharon Yiesla



Flowers:

- Perfect
- Flower buds in clusters
- Magenta color

Cercis canadensis

(Redbud)



© Sharon Yiesla

Fruit:

- Flat, brown legumes
- 2-3 inches

Cercis canadensis

(Redbud)



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Other:

- Older bark cracks open to show inner red bark
- Often multi-trunked

Fraxinus pennsylvanica (Green ash)



Leaves:

- Opposite
- Pinnately compound leaves
- 5 to 9 sessile leaves

Fraxinus pennsylvanica

(Green ash)

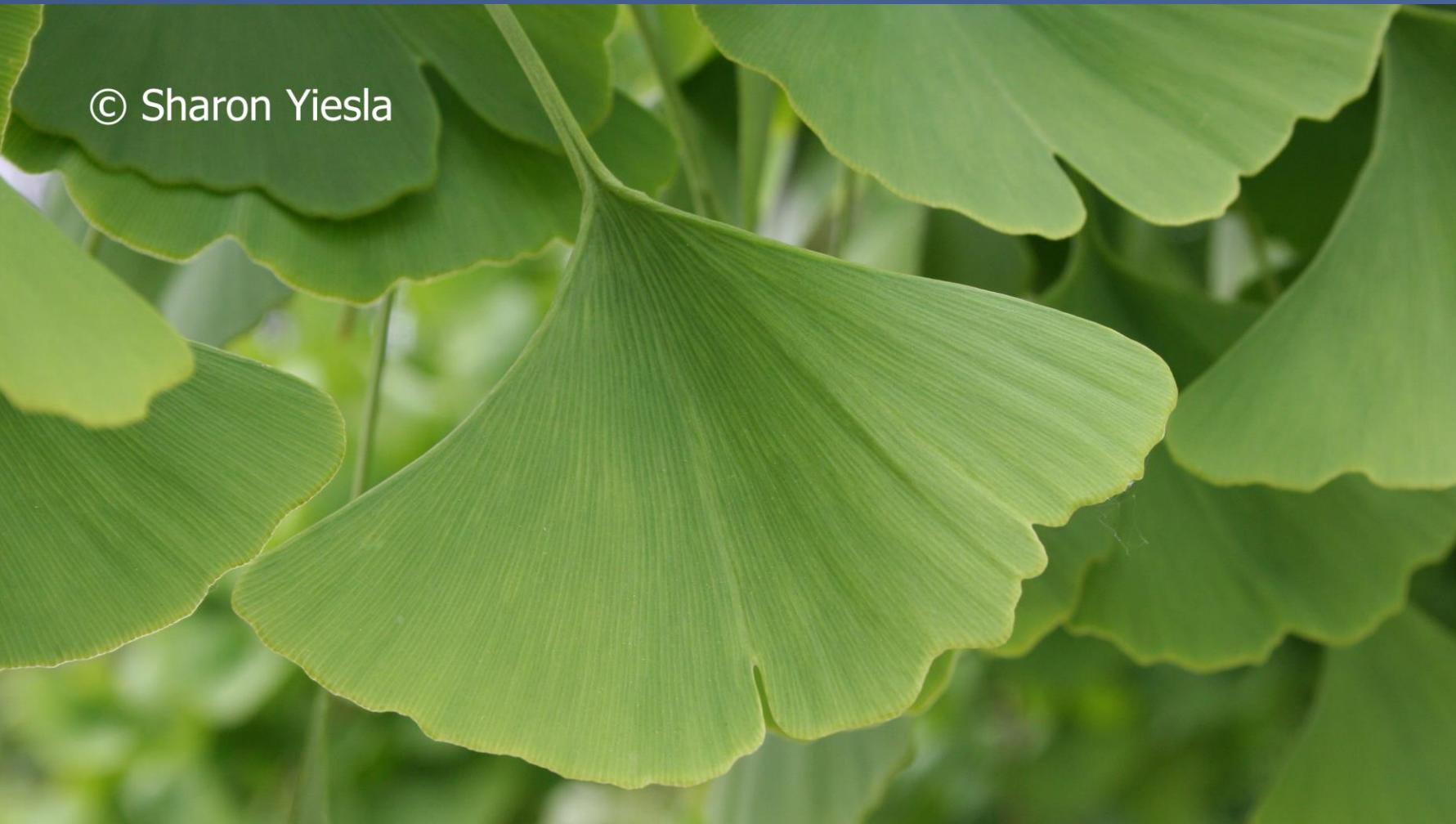


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Other:

- Bark fairly tightly ridged and furrowed

Ginkgo biloba (Ginkgo)



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Leaves:

- Alternate, on spurs
- Fan shaped

Ginkgo biloba (Ginkgo)

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Male



© Sharon Yiesla



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Flowers:

- Dioecious
- Male catkins
- Female tiny in pairs

Ginkgo biloba (Ginkgo)



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Fruit:

- Not a true fruit
- Naked seed with a fleshy coating
- Stinks when it lays on the ground

Ginkgo biloba



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(Ginkgo)

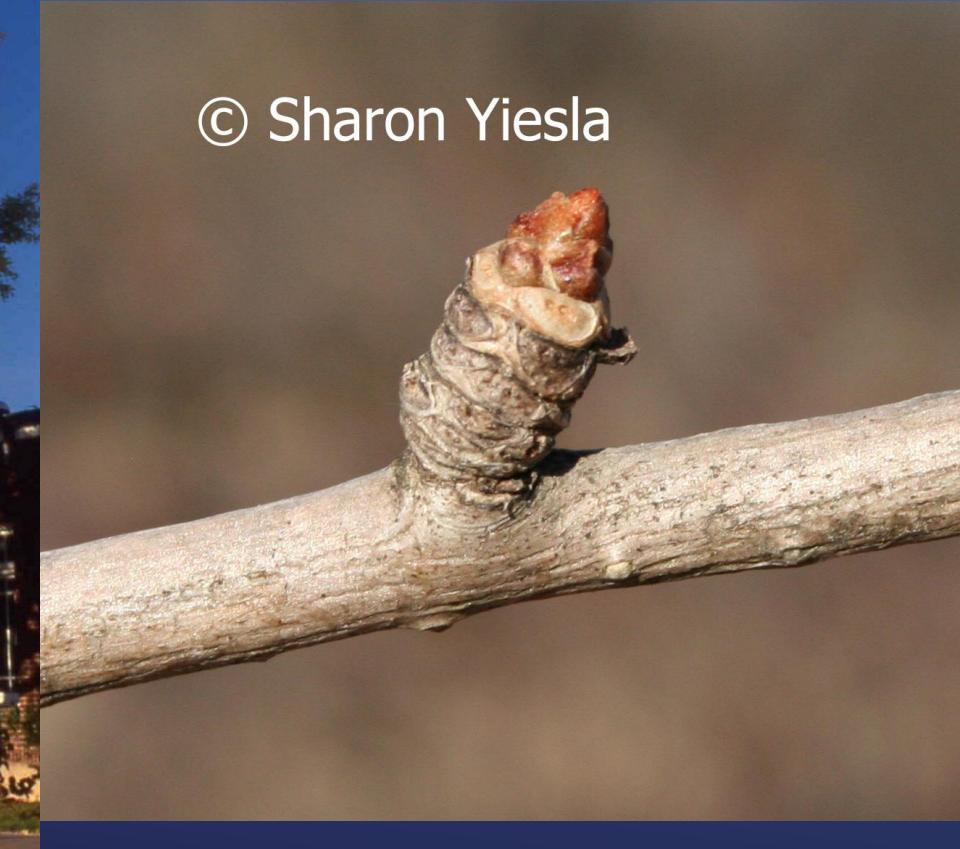


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Other:

- Spurs on stems
- Bark ridges flattened
- Great fall color

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Gleditsia triacanthos var. *inermis* (Thornless honeylocust)



Leaves:

- Pinnately to bipinnately compound
- Leaflets 1/3-1 1/2"
- Rachis pubescent and grooved
- Base of petiole swollen; enclosing the bud.

Gleditsia triacanthos var. *inermis* (Thornless honeylocust)



Fruit:

- Thin legume
- 7-18 inches
- Red brown and curled at maturity

Gleditsia triacanthos var. *inermis* (Thornless honeylocust)



Other:

- Bark recurved along the edges
- Thorns on the species

Gymnocladus dioicus

(Kentucky Coffeetree)

Leaves:

- Bipinnately compound
- Up to 3 feet long
- Entire margins

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Gymnocladus dioicus

(Kentucky Coffeetree)

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Flowers:

- Dioecious
- Upright cluster of flowers



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Gymnocladus dioicus (Kentucky Coffeetree)



© Sharon Yiesla

Fruit:

- Thick legume
- 5-10 inches
- Red brown at maturity

Gymnocladus dioicus (Kentucky Coffeetree)



Other:

- Bark recurved along the edges
- Salmon pith
- Buds superposed; in a golden 'nest'

Liquidambar styraciflua (Sweetgum)



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Leaves:

- Alternate
- Star shaped
- Glossy
- Finely toothed

Liquidambar styraciflua (Sweetgum)



Flowers:

- Monoecious
- Male cluster of heads
- Female pendulous head

Liquidambar styraciflua (Sweetgum)

Fruit:

- Aggregate of capsules
- 1-1 ½ inches
- Persistent



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Liquidambar styraciflua (Sweetgum)



Other:

- Large shiny buds
- Aromatic stems
- Great fall color

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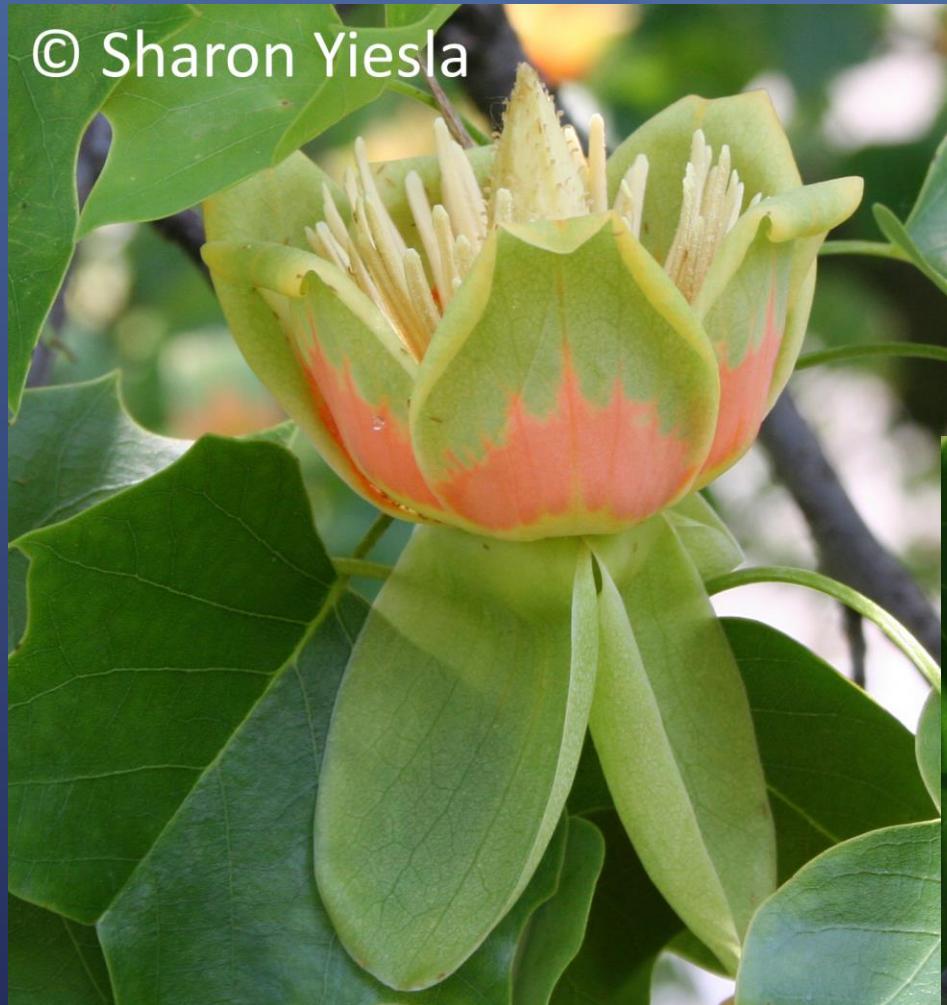
Liriodendron tulipifera (Tulip tree)



Leaves:

- Alternate
- Unique shape
- Entire margin

Liriodendron tulipifera (Tulip tree)



Flowers:

- Perfect
- Orange and green; tulip like

Liriodendron tulipifera (Tulip tree)



© Sharon Yiesla



© Sharon Yiesla

Fruit:

- Aggregate of samaras
- 2-3 inches long
- Persistent

Liriodendron tulipifera (Tulip tree)

© Sharon Yiesla



© Sharon Yiesla



© Sharon Yiesla

Other:

- Valvate buds
- Narrowly ridged bark
- Upright form

Picea abies

(Norway spruce)



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Needles:

- Evergreen
- $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 inch long
- Held singly
- Pointed forward

Buds

- Not resinous
- Reflexed scales

Picea abies

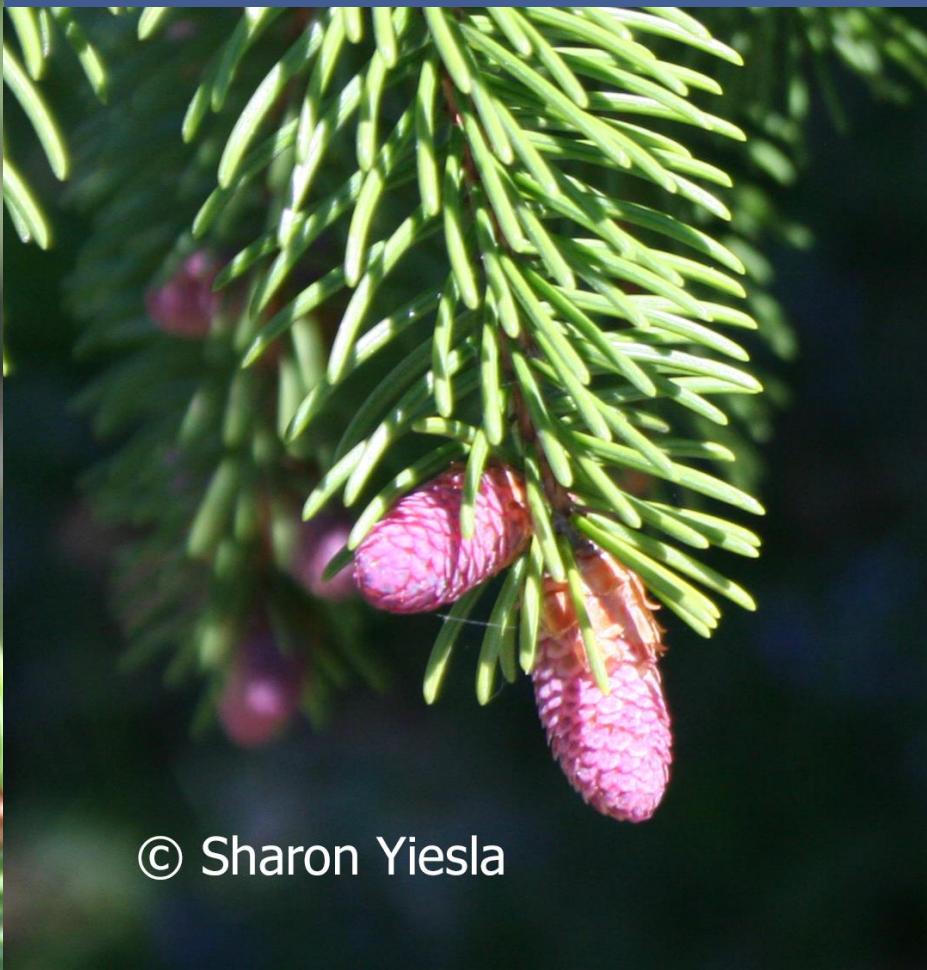
(Norway spruce)

female

© Sharon Yiesla



Male pollen cones



Flowering cones:

- Monoecious

Picea abies

(Norway spruce)



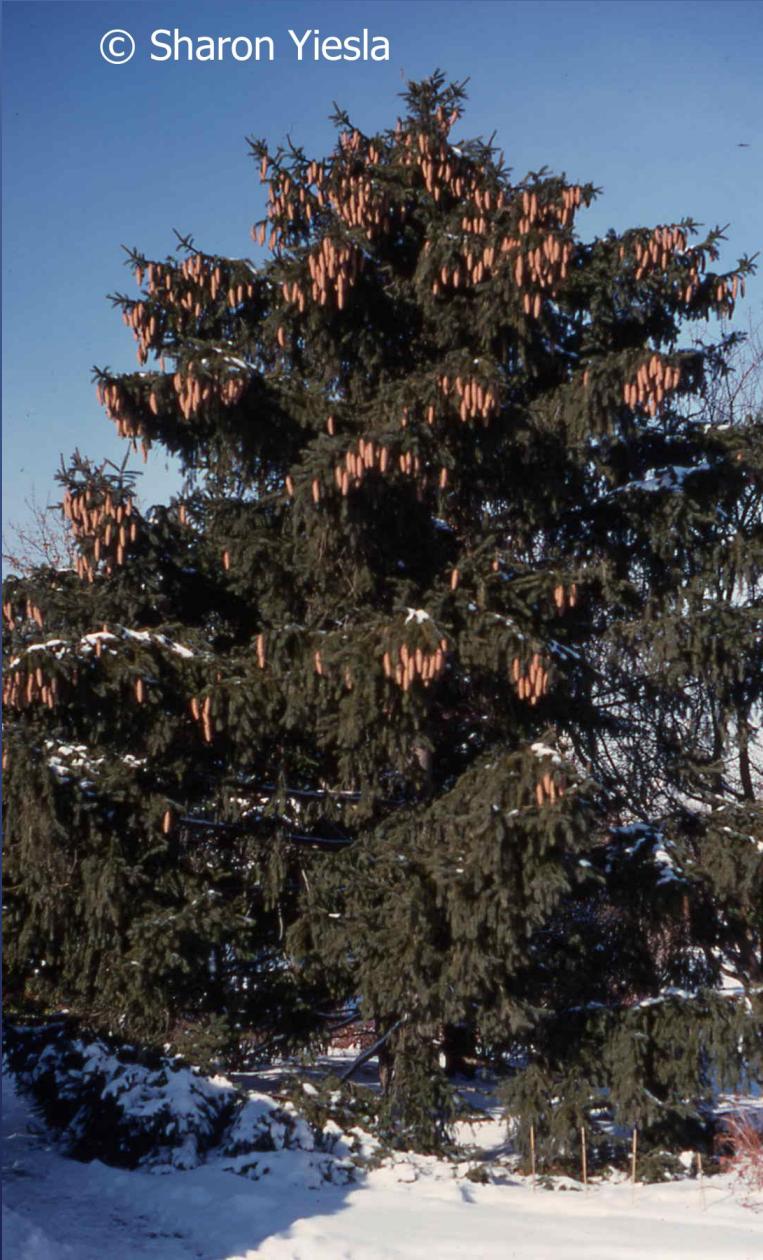
Cones:

- Cylindrical and pendulous
- 4-6 inches long
- Scales undulate

Picea abies

(Norway spruce)

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Other:

- Pendulous branches

Platanus x acerifolia

(London Planetree)



© Sharon Yiesla

Leaves:

- Alternate
- 3-5 triangular lobes
- sinuses extending $\frac{1}{3}$ the length of the blade.
- Base of petiole surrounds bud

Platanus x acerifolia

(London Planetree)



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Flowers:

- Monoecious
- Males flowers in round (green) heads
- Female flowers in round (red) heads

Platanus x acerifolia

(London Planetree)



Fruit:

- Round, aggregate (syncarp)
- Usually in 2's or 3's

Platanus x acerifolia

(London Planetree)



© Sharon Yiesla

Other:

- Bark peels to reveal a mosaic of colors

Quercus bicolor (Swamp white oak)



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Leaves:

- Alternate
- Shallow, rounded lobes
- Lower surface whitish
- Shape variable

Quercus bicolor

(Swamp white oak)



Flowers:

- Monoecious
- Males in pendulous catkins
- Females in tiny spikes in leaf axils

Quercus bicolor

(Swamp white oak)

Fruit:

- Acorn
- 1 inch long
- Cap covers 1/3 to 1/2 of acorn.
- Solitary or in pairs



Quercus bicolor

(Swamp white oak)



© Sharon Yiesla

Other:

- Platy bark on trunk; slightly peeling on stems

Quercus rubra

(Red oak)



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Leaves:

- Alternate
- 7-11 pointed lobes
- Tufts of hair in vein axils on lower surface

Quercus rubra

(Red oak)

Fruit:



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- Acorn
- $\frac{3}{4}$ -1 inch long
- Cap covers only a small portion of acorn.
- Solitary or in pairs

Quercus rubra

(Red oak)



Other:

- Bud is red-brown; little to no pubescence

Taxodium distichum (Bald Cypress)



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Needles:

- Alternate
- Deciduous

Taxodium distichum

(Bald Cypress)

female



male



Flowering cones:

- Monoecious
- Females tiny
- Males in dangling catkins

Taxodium distichum

(Bald Cypress)



© Sharon Yiesla

Cones:

- Rounded
- Valvate scales



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Taxodium distichum

(Bald Cypress)



Other:

- Great fall color
- Shredded bark
- Knees

Thuja plicata

(Arborvitae)



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Needles:

- Scale-like
- In flattened branchlets

Thuja plicata

(Arborvitae)



Flowering cones:

- Monoecious
- At tips of branchlets

Thuja plicata

(Arborvitae)



Cones:

- Small brown cones
- 1/3 to 1/2 inch

Tilia americana

(American linden)



Leaves:

- Alternate
- Heart-shaped
- Unequal leaf base
- Toothed margin

Tilia americana

(American linden)



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Flowers:

- Perfect
- Very fragrant
- Creamy yellow
- Subtended by a long strappy bract

Tilia americana

(American linden)



Fruit:

- Round nutlets