

TREE KEY

The leaves, bark, fruits or flowers, and tree shape can help identify trees. Gather clues from trees and use a book to identify them.

1. Look at the LEAVES

smooth toothed lobed palmate pinnate needle
 Simple Compound

2. Look at the BARK

smooth lenticels scales furrows & ridges

3. Look at the FRUITS/FLOWERS

acorn samara drupe flower cone

4. Look at the SHAPE

oval round vase pyramidal

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TYPES OF TREES

Hi, I'm TRACK. It's easy to get confused with the various types of trees that can be found in the Blue Ridge Mountains. There are more species of trees here than in all of Europe!



Use this guide to identify and learn about a few of the common types of trees in the area.

OAKS

are usually **deciduous** trees that shed leaves in winter. Their broad leaves  can vary widely depending on family, from rounded lobes to sharply pointed lobes to smooth. Oaks produce nuts called acorns  that usually have one seed inside. Their bark is typically gray with deep furrows and scaly ridges.

Can you find these Oaks?

WHITE OAK

- 7-10 rounded lobes
- Oblong acorn with shallow cup
- Ash gray bark that becomes rougher in older trees

cup
nut

RED OAK

- 7-11 bristle-pointed lobes
- Round acorn with flat cup
- Dark reddish bark with wide 'ski track' furrows and ridges



HUMANS USE OAKS FOR:

Boats

Acorn
Flour

Furniture

MAPLES

are **deciduous** trees that are known for brilliant fall colors. They have broad leaves , usually with five lobes and pointed tips. Maples produce winged fruits called samaras  that spin to the ground as they fall. Young maples have smooth bark that develops long deep furrows as the tree ages.

Can you find these Maples?

RED MAPLE

- 3-5 lobes with toothed edges
- Red twigs, flowers, and samaras
- Rough gray bark on older trees

SUGAR MAPLE

- 5 lobes with rounded notches
- Samaras with round, green seeds and brown wings
- Brown bark with long, thick ridges



HUMANS USE MAPLES FOR:

Syrup

Guitars

Bowling
Pins

PINES

are **evergreen** trees, meaning they keep their leaves all year. Their bark is usually thick and scaly. Pines produce cones  and have needles  that grow in bundles (fascicles). Their crowns are tapered, being wider at the bottom and pointy at the top.

Can you find these Pines?

WHITE PINE

- Bundles of five long needles
- Long, thin cones
- Rough gray bark

VIRGINIA PINE

- Bundles of two short twisted needles
- Egg-shaped cones with sharp prickles
- Reddish-brown scaly bark

PITCH PINE

- Bundles of three slightly twisted medium length needles
- Fat egg-shaped cones with prickles
- Thick orange-brown puzzle-piece bark

HUMANS USE PINES FOR:

Turpentine

Paper

Tea