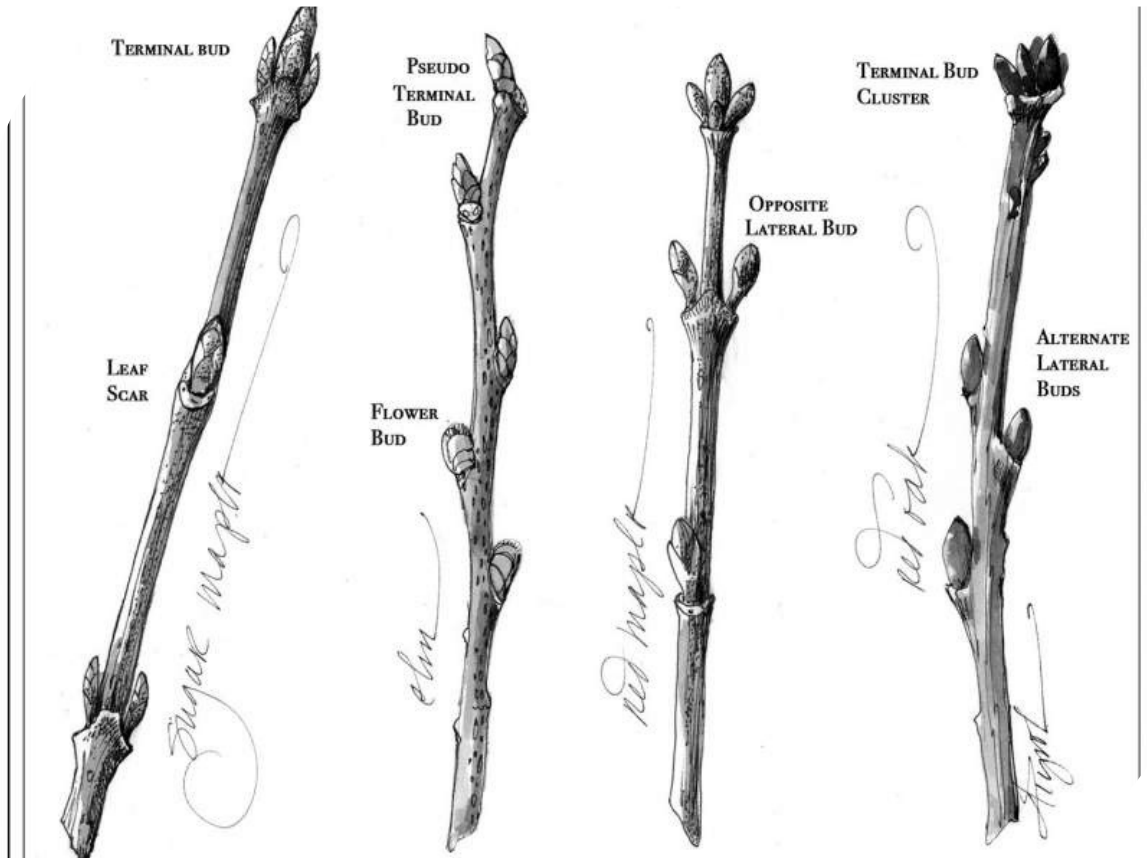


DUKES 4 TREES

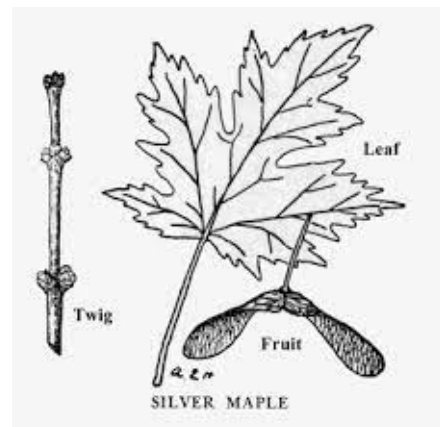
2022 / December 9 / Walk 10



TOP - Tree twigs showing opposite and alternate bud/leaf arrangement. (Illustration by: Adelaide Tyrol)
BOTTOM RIGHT - Silver maple leaf, fruit and twig showing opposite bud arrangement. (Cornell University)

MADCapHorse

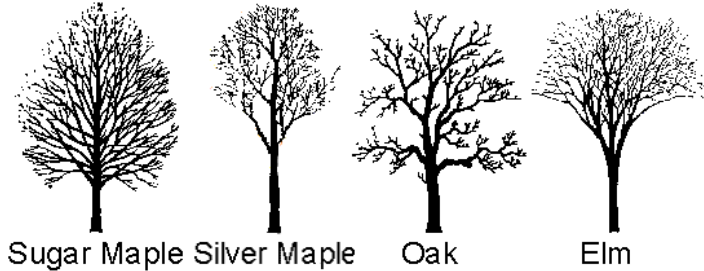
Use the pneumonic MADCapHorse to remember which species have opposite leaf arrangement. Then, if you find a species you don't know and its leaves are oppositely arranged, you can quickly narrow your choices down to: maple, ash, dogwood (except for alternate leaf dogwood), something in the honeysuckle family, or a horse chestnut or buckeye. There are exceptions to this rule, but this is a great place to start (Virginia Tech Dendrology).



Winter Tree Identification

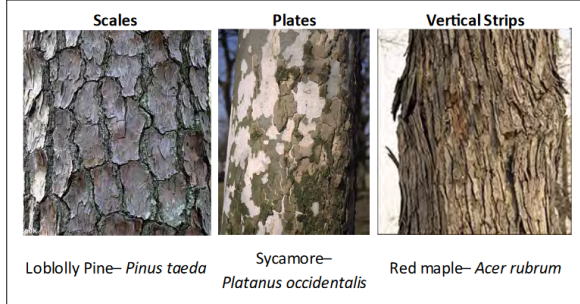
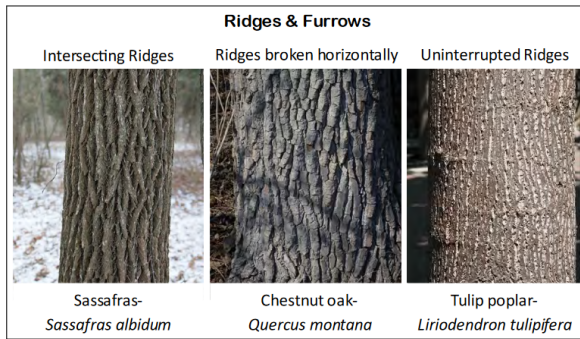
Tree Form

The form of a tree or the shape of it is easier to see in the winter, once all the leaves have been shed. You can narrow down to certain species, just by observing their form. Keep in mind that a tree's form is best observed in an open area, not in a forested environment where competition is high.



Sugar Maple Silver Maple Oak Elm

Graphic: Toronto Green Community - Lost Rivers



Tree Bark

Identifying a tree by its bark can be one way to ID a tree in the winter, as long as you keep in mind that as a tree ages the tree's bark can change. Each species has young, mature and old bark. Sometimes the changes are barely noticeable, but in some species, like Black cherry, the changes can be surprisingly drastic.

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Twig and Bud

Twigs are the end portion of a branch, typically representing the current year's growth. Twigs have distinguishing features: buds, leaf scars, bundle scars, color and fragrance. Species like Tree-of-heaven and sumac have stout twigs. Beech and birch are slender and sycamore are zigzag. Sassafras and birch are quite fragrant and Black cherry is foul smelling. Some species have distinct features, like green twigs - such as boxelders.

