

Alberta Tree Species

Coniferous Trees (cone bearing)

- Limber Pine
- Balsam Fir
- Rocky Mountain Douglas Fir

Pine Tree

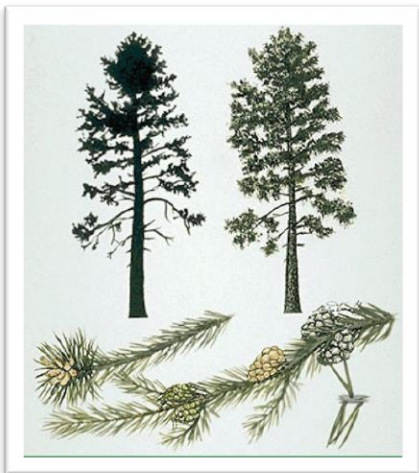
- Most widespread tree in Canada
- Needles appear in pairs
- Bark is thin and scaly
- Most commonly used for plywood, paneling, furniture, and railway ties
- Were also most common trees used by Aboriginal people to build teepees
- First trees to grow back after a forest fire

i. Lodgepole Pine

- A slim, tall tree that grows to 30 m or more
- Used as the poles for power poles, lodges, and buildings
- Common tree in the Rocky Mountain and Foothills areas
- Provincial tree of Alberta

ii. Jackpine (needle → bundles of two → flattened needle)

- Grows in sandy soil areas
- Common Boreal forest tree



Spruce Tree

- Most common wood used in Canada (e.g. used as lumber for building homes)
- Large tree with narrow crown
- Cones light brown and scaly
- Needles are four-sided, stiff and sharp
- Needles arranged spirally on a twig
- Bark is usually scaly and greyish-brown

i. White Spruce

- Found in all forest regions
- One of the first coniferous trees to start growing in burned-out pine and old aspen poplar forests

ii. Black Spruce

- Found in all forest areas, but especially in northern parts of the country
- One of the few conifers that grows well in wetland areas such as bogs and muskeg



Deciduous Trees

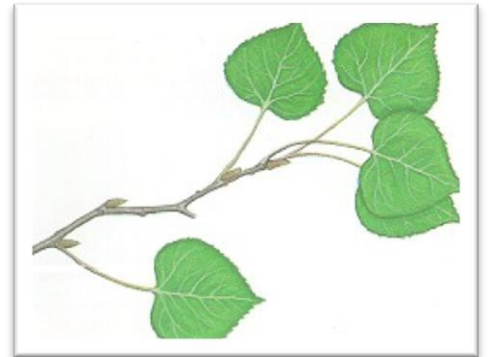
- Choke Cherry
- Manitoba Maple
- Balsam Poplar (broadleaf → alternate → simple → curved teeth → ovate)
- Wolf Willow

Poplar Tree

- Very common in Canada
- Used for making paper and excellent fire wood
- Oval shaped leaves that have a fine-toothed margin
- Bark is smooth and yellowish
- In the past, poplar trees were used for natural medicine.

i. Aspen Poplar (a.k.a. white poplar, trembling aspen, white cottonwood, quivering aspen, or quaking aspen)

- Leaves shake in the breeze
- Slender tree with smooth, greenish-white bark that does not peel away
- Seeds are found in green capsules containing clumps of cottony fluff.
- Can sprout from root suckers as well as from seeds.
- Leaves simple, heart-shaped, toothed and have long, flat stalks
- Upper surface of leaf is dark green and underside is paler green



ii. Balsam Poplar (a.k.a. black poplar)

- Straight trunk with bark greenish gray when young and brown with grooves when old
- Produces buds that contain a sticky substance that has a pleasant balsalm smell
- Leaves are simple, oval to wedge-shaped with fine-toothed margins is paler with rust-coloured marks
- Upper surface of leaf is dark green and underside



- **Paper Birch** (broadleaf → alternate → simple → coarse toothed → cordate)
 - Small to medium size with many stems
 - Bark is thin, smooth, brown horizontal lines
 - Bark is light, strong and flexible
 - Bark peels off in paper strips
 - Narrow, oval-shaped crown about a slender trunk
 - In the past, Aboriginal people used birch bark to build canoes



Coniferous and Deciduous Tree

- Tamarack (larch)



In summary, **trees have distinguishing characteristics.**

They can be classified and identified according to:

- Leaf type
- Leaf shapes
- Leaf margins
- Leaf arrangements
- Branching patterns
- Silhouettes (overall form of trees)
- Bark colour, texture, pattern
- Type of flowers, fruits or cones