

ASH TREE IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

The Common Characteristics of Ash Trees

Ash trees are deciduous with an upright, oval to rounded silhouette and a dense canopy. Foliage is dark green above and paler below.

Ash Bud and Branch

Arrangement:

Branches and buds of ash trees are located directly across from each other. They are **OPPOSITE**.

YES!



Opposite
Branching

Ash trees **DO NOT** display staggered or **ALTERNATE** branching pattern.

NO!



Alternate
Branching

Note:

Buds and limbs of ash trees often die and fall off, so not every single branch or bud will have an opposite mate. Look at several examples to determine the branch arrangement.

Ash Leaves:

Ash have **COMPOUND** leaves which help make them easy to identify. Each leaf is made up of 5-11 leaflets. The leaflets are positioned opposite of each other, except for the solitary leaflet at the tip.

Green
Ash



Green Ash

Leaflet margins may be smooth, serrated or toothed.

White
Ash



White Ash

Black Ash



Black Ash

The leaflets vary in size depending on the species.

Ash Bark:

Ash bark is usually light to dark gray with a medium to coarse ridged or furrowed appearance; as the ash tree ages, the bark looks diamond shaped. On younger trees, the bark is smooth.

Ash Seeds:

The single winged seeds of ash trees are called **samaras**. Samaras hang in clusters. For identification photographs and more information on ash trees and the threat that Emerald Ash Borer represents to their health please visit:

www.entm.purdue.edu/EAB

ASH TREE "LOOK-A-LIKES"

Trees that Resemble Ash

For identification photographs and more information on ash trees and the threat of Emerald Ash Borer please visit: www.entm.purdue.edu/EAB

BOXELDER



- Opposite branching habit
- Compound leaves 3 - 5 leaflets (instead of 5 - 11)
- Samaras are always in pairs instead of single like the ash

MOUNTAIN ASH



- Alternate branching habit
- Compound leaves
- Clusters of creamy white flowers
- Fruits are red-orange berries

SHAGBARK HICKORY

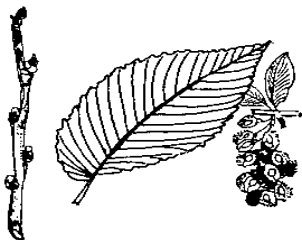


- Alternate branching habit
- Compound with 5 - 7 leaflets
- Hard-shelled nuts in a green husk

BLACK WALNUT



- Alternate branching habit
- Compound leaves with 9 - 15 leaflets
- Fruit is a large dark brown nut inside a green husk



ELM

- Alternate branching
- Leaves are simple with unequal leaf base