

Parts of a Tree

Leaves

Leaves "breathe" in the carbon dioxide in the air through little holes on their undersides and change sunlight to energy.

Flowers and Fruit

These decorative parts of the tree create the seeds in order to continue making new trees.

Branches

Branches act as mini trunks and continue bringing the food directly to the leaves.

Trunk

The trunk delivers the food (nutrients) from the roots to all of the other parts of the tree.

Bark

This is the tree's skin that covers the tree trunk and helps protect the transport of food from the soil. It also protects the tree from animals and from drying out.

Roots

Roots absorb nutrients and moisture from the soil.

What is a Seedling?

Trees grow from seeds. When the seeds germinate, the tree begins to grow. As the seed starts to grow, it develops a stem and a root. The leaves unfold and develop into their adult form. This little tree is called a seedling.

Tree Characteristics

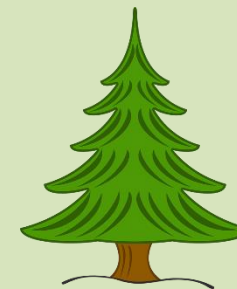
Trees are the best known plants known to man. They brighten the countryside and soften the harsh lines of city streets. Each year trees increase in importance and find new uses. They are beautiful and majestic. Some of the largest and oldest of living things are trees that may be as old as 3,000-4,000 years. Some are as tall as a 40 foot skyscraper with enough wood to build dozens of buildings.

A tree is a woody plant with a single erect stem, growing to a height of 10' or more. While shrubs are also woody, they are usually smaller than trees and tend to have many stems growing in a clump.

In the United States the major groups of trees are: conifers (Pines and their relatives), identified by needle-like or scaly leaves; and the broad-leaved deciduous trees such as Maples, Oaks, and Ashes.

Types of Trees

Coniferous –
Keeps leaves
all year.



Deciduous -
Loses leaves in fall.



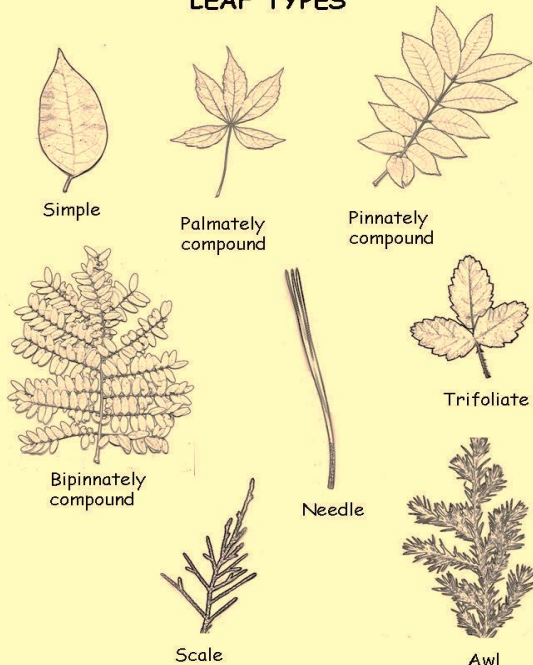
Over 800 species of native and naturalized trees grow wild in the United States. About 775 of these are native trees. These trees, both native and naturalized, make up about 600 million acres of forest and produce billions of dollars' worth of forest products yearly.

Trees are easiest to identify by their leaves. Their form also is a way to identify trees from a distance.

Types of tree leaves

Deciduous trees are trees whose leaves lose their green coloring and turn orange, red or brown before they are shed at the end of the growing season, generally in autumn. Evergreen trees carry their leaves throughout the year.

LEAF TYPES



A Special Day for Trees – Arbor Day

The origins of Arbor Day date back to the early 1870s in Nebraska City, Nebraska. A journalist by the name of Julius Sterling Morton moved to the state in 1854. As a newcomer to the young state, Morton purchased 160 acres and planted a wide variety of trees and shrubs in what was a flat stretch of desolate plain.

Morton, the editor of the state's first newspaper, started spreading his knowledge of trees, and stressed their ecological importance and methods of planting, growing and preserving trees.

His message of tree life resonated with Nebraskans. On January 7, 1872, Morton proposed a day that would encourage all Nebraskans to plant trees in their community to reflect the appreciation of all trees and Arbor Day was born.

The first ever Arbor Day, held on April 10, 1872, was a wild success in Nebraska. Morton led the charge in the planting of approximately 1 million trees.

The tradition quickly began to spread. In 1882, schools across the country started to participate. Within 20 years, Arbor Day had reached a large swath of the nation, and was celebrated in every state except for Delaware. The holiday spread even further. Arbor Day has been introduced to Japan and across Europe, Canada and Australia.

It wasn't until 1970, however, that Arbor Day became recognized nationwide, thanks to U.S. President Richard Nixon. In Ohio, Arbor Day is celebrated on the last Friday in April.

ALL ABOUT TREES



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