

Key to Selected Native and Introduced Trees and Shrubs around MCC Campus

Developed by Janis Jackson, MCC Botanist

- (1) Leaves in the form of evergreen needles or scales..... Go to 2.
(1) Leaves with broader, flat lamina; deciduous or evergreen..... Go to 4.
- (2) Leaves with 2, 3, or 5 needles per fascicle (bundle)..... Pine (*Pinus*)
(2) Leaves in scales, overlapping, less than 5 cm long..... Go to 3.
- (3) Leafy twigs decidedly flattened..... Arbor vitae (*Thuja*)
(3) Leafy twigs not flattened; leaves taper into a sharp point..... E. Red Cedar (*Juniperus*)
- (4) Leaves opposite, subopposite or in whorls of 3 or more per node..... Go to 5.
(4) Leaves alternate on the stem..... Go to 11.
- (5) Leaves simple..... Go to 6.
(5) Leaves compound..... Go to 9.
- (6) Leaves opposite or subopposite..... Go to 7.
(6) Leaves mostly whorled..... Oleander (*Nerium*)
- (7) Leaf margins entire, crinkled flowers; irregular, flaky bark..... Crape Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia*)
(7) Leaf margins serrated with fine teeth..... Go to 8.
- (8) Stem surface glabrous; leaves 2.5 – 3 inches long..... Rusty Blackhaw (*Viburnum rufidulum*)
(8) Stem covered with fine pubescence..... Swamp privet (*Forestiera*)
- (9) Leaves pinnately compound..... Go to 10.
(9) Most leaves palmately compound..... *Vitex*
- (10) Leaflets 3 to 5, coarsely toothed apex..... Box Elder (*Acer*)
(10) Most leaflets 5 (can be 7-11), margins entire or finely toothed..... White Ash (*Fraxinus*)
- (11) Leaves simple..... Go to 12.
(11) Leaves compound..... Go to 31.
- (12) Leaves fan-shaped with small dichotomous venation..... Maidenhair tree (*Ginkgo*)
(12) Leaves not fan-shaped, some veins larger than others..... Go to 13.
- (13) Leaf margins neither lobed nor toothed when mature (having entire margins)..... Go to 14.
(13) Leaf margins either lobed or toothed when mature (having “not entire margins”)..... Go to 21.
- (14) Leaves heart-shaped..... Go to 15.
(14) Leaves not heart-shaped..... Go to 16.

- (15) Leaves heart-shaped throughout; seed pods green..... Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)
 (15) Leaves kidney-shaped at base; seed pods red..... Oklahoma Redbud (*Cercis reniformis*)
- (16) Buds clustered at ends of twigs; leaves glabrous Live oak (*Quercus virginiana* L.)
 (16) Buds not as above..... Go to 17.
- (17) Thorns or spines present on stem..... Go to 18.
 (17) No thorns or spines present..... Go to 19.
- (18) Leaves & twigs pubescent; petiole <1/2 inch..... Gum Bumelia (*Bumelia*)
 (18) Leaves glabrous; petiole can be 1/2 in or >..... Osage orange (*Maclura pomifera*)
- (19) Leaf bases symmetrical Go to 20.
 (19) Leaf bases not symmetrical; leaves with 2 prominent lateral veins from leaf base
 Sugar Hackberry (*Celtis*)
- (20) Broad leaf with greatly elongated apex; milky sap; rough bark..... Chinese tallow (*Sapium*)
 (20) Leaf without long apex; smooth bark..... Wild persimmon (*Diospyros*)
- (21) Petiole flattened Cottonwood (*Populus*)
 (21) Petiole not flattened..... Go to 22.
- (22) Leaves in two rows on a single stem (Two-ranked)..... Go to 23.
 (22) Leaves in more than two rows on a stem..... Go to 29.
- (23) Leaves palmately venated..... Go to 24.
 (23) Leaves pinnately venated..... Go to 26.
- (24) Leaves with rounded lobes, or lobes absent on margins..... Go to 25.
 (24) Leaves with pointedly lobed margins..... Sycamore (*Platanus*)
- (25) Leaf bases symmetrical, some margins unevenly lobed..... Mulberry (*Morus*)
 (25) Leaf bases not symmetrical, margins never lobed..... Common Hackberry (*Celtis*)
- (26) Leaves 3-5 in long and quite narrow..... Willow (*Salix*)
 (26) Leaves broader in relation to length..... Go to 27.
- (27) Leaves 3-7 in long..... American Elm (*Ulmus americana*)
 (27) Leaves 1-2 in long..... Go to 28.
- (28) Shrub with small, thin, glabrous leaves with serrated margins; small red berries
 Possomhaw Holly (*Ilex*)
 (28) Tree with coarsely toothed and scabrous leaves..... Cedar Elm (*Ulmus crassifolia*)
- (29) Leaves with a bristle at the end of each main vein in leaf Red Oak (*Quercus shumardii*)
 (29) Leaves without a bristle..... White oak -Go to 30.

- (30) Mature leaves deeply lobed. Huge acorns (2-5 cm) in fringed cup
..... Burr oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*)
- (30) Leaves shallowly lobed. Tree with light, shaggy bark..... Durand Oak (*Quercus durandii*)
- (31) Leaves once or singly compound..... Go to 35.
- (31) Leaves twice or doubly compound..... Go to 32.
- (32) Thorns or prickles on stems..... Go to 33.
- (32) No thorns or prickles on stem..... Go to 34.
- (33) Evenly doubly pinnately compound leaves; beans cylindrical..... Mesquite (*Prosopis*)
- (33) Oddly singly pinnately compound leaves; flat beans (1 ½ in long); thorns on branches
..... Honey Locust (*Gleditsia*)
- (34) Margins of leaflets toothed; small, round, green berries..... Chinaberry (*Melia*)
- (34) Margins of leaflets entire; long, flat legumes..... Mimosa (*Albizia*)
- (35) Stems heavily prickled; aromatic leaves occasionally spined..... Prickly Ash (*Zanthoxylum*)
- (35) No prickles on stems..... Go to 36.
- (36) Having 5-7 leaflets with fine-toothed margins; fruit a 3 chambered capsule
..... Mexican Buckeye (*Ungnadia*)
- (36) Having 9 or more leaflets..... Go to 37.
- (37) Toothed leaf margins..... Go to 38.
- (37) Leaves with entire margins..... Go to 40.
- (38) Axillary bud covered by base of petiole; 27 or > coarsely toothed leaflets; small, hard berries
in terminal cluster..... Smooth Sumac (*Rhus*)
- (38) Axillary buds visible without removing leaf; larger trees bearing nuts..... Go to 39.
- (39) Oval fruit dehiscing on four lines; 9-17 leaflets varying from 4-8 in long..... Pecan (*Carya*)
- (39) Round, indehiscent fruit; 17-23 leaflets varying from 3-5 in long..... Black walnut (*Juglans nigra*)
- (40) Pinkish-white flowers producing beans that resemble black beads; large pulvinus present at
base of leaf, composed of >13 leaflets from 1-1 ½ in long..... Eve's Necklace (*Sophora affinis*)
- (40) Small fruits resembling China berries; 13-22 slender leaflets, each over 1 ½ in long
..... Soapberry (*Sapindus drummondii*)