

Tree Identification Guide

This guide can be used for the OPAL Tree Health Survey and OPAL Air Survey



Oak

Quercus species



Ash

Fraxinus excelsior



Horse chestnut

Aesculus hippocastanum



Sycamore

Acer pseudoplatanus



Rowan

Sorbus aucuparia



Elder

Sambucus nigra



Maple

Acer species



Hawthorn

Crataegus montana



London Plane

Platanus x acerifolia



Sweet chestnut

Castanea sativa



Beech

Fagus sylvatica



Whitebeam

Sorbus aria



Cherry

Prunus species



Willow

Salix species



Hornbeam

Carpinus betulus



Crab apple

Malus sylvatica



Birch

Betula species



Poplar

Populus species



Hazel

Corylus avellana



Lime

Tilia species



Elm

Ulmus species



Alder

Alnus species



↓ Start here ↓

Does the tree have needles or scale-like leaves?



Conifers

If you have found a conifer, choose another tree for your OPAL survey

No

Does the tree have simple leaves?



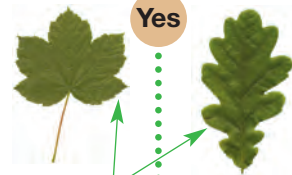
a compound leaf – made up of several leaflets

Yes



a simple leaf – a single leaf attached to a stalk

Do the leaves have lobes?



Lobes are large projections at the edge of the leaf

Hawthorn



Yes

Are the twigs thorny?

No

Oak



Do all the leaflets grow from the end of the stalk?



Horse chestnut

Yes

Do the leaflets grow from the end of the stalk?

No



Elder

Yes

Check: Elder leaves release a pungent smell when you rub them

Does the leaf have two or three pairs of leaflets?

No

Do the leaves grow in opposite pairs on the twig?



Opposite pairs – pairs of leaves grow from a single point on the stem

Ash

Yes

Check: Ash has black buds

Do the leaves grow in opposite pairs on the twig? (Make sure that you are looking at the leaves and not just the leaflets)

No



Rowan

Check: Rowan never has black buds like Ash. Rowan leaflets are deeper toothed than Ash. Look out for red berries on Rowan in autumn

Alternate pairs – each leaf grows from a different place on the stem

Do the veins spread out from a single point?

No



veins spread out from a single point at the top of the leaf stalk – a palmate leaf

Sycamore

Teeth are small projections on the edge of the leaf



Do the veins spread out from a single point?

No



veins spread from several places along the leaf stalk – a pinnate leaf

London Plane

Do the leaves grow in opposite pairs?

No



Maple

Check: Maple leaves have more rounded lobes, while London Plane and Sycamore have more pointed lobes



Is the leaf at least twice as long as it is wide?

No

Yes

Is the leaf shorter than 10 cm?

Yes

No



Sweet chestnut
Check: If there are 2 red spots at the top of the leaf stalk, it is probably a Cherry

Does the edge of the leaf have large teeth?

Yes

No

Are there 2 red spots at the top of the leaf stalk?

Yes

No



Willow



No

Does the leaf have a blunt or rounded tip?

Yes

Alder



Hornbeam

Yes



Cherry

Check: Cherry leaves have a wide range of sizes



Beech

Check: Beech leaves have a wavy edge

Does the leaf have a toothed edge?

Yes

No



Birch

Check you are looking at Birch not Alder. Alder has a rounded leaf tip, while Birch has a pointed leaf tip



Whitebeam

Is the leaf base asymmetrical?

Yes

No



Elm

Check: Elm leaves feel rough when rubbed between the fingers

Does the leaf bulge out more at one side?

Yes



Hazel

Check: Hazel leaves and leaf stems are hairy

Lime



Is the underside of the leaf pale?

No

Yes

Does the bud grow on a stalk?

Yes

Crab apple



Is the leaf tip a distinct point?

Yes

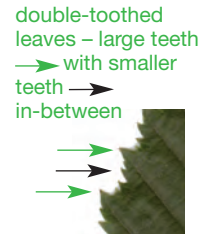


distinct point – it looks like the end of the leaf has been pinched

Is the leaf stalk flattened?

Yes

Poplar



double-toothed leaves – large teeth
→ with smaller teeth
→ in-between