

Tree Stumpers!
B · I · N · G · O

TREE DESCRIPTION LIST

You may wish to use this list as a learning guide to prepare students to play the Bingo game by familiarizing themselves with the tree descriptions.

Bald Cypress

Leaf: Flattened narrow coniferous needles; sheds in fall. Yellow-green.

Seed: Round cone; 3/4 to 1 inch in diameter.

Bark: Fibrous red-brown or smother gray where worn by weather.

Black Oak

Leaf: Shallowly lobed; 4 to 10 inches long; some variation in shape; with thick, leathery lobes that widen towards tips.

Seed: Acorn; 1/2 to 3/4 inch long with large cap; cap covers half of nut; emerges August through October.

Bark: Thick and very dark on older trees; orange inner bark.

Black Walnut

Leaf: Compound; 10 to 24 inches long; composed of leaflets 3 inches long. Toothed edges; end leaflet may be small or absent. Leaflets often irregularly shaped, but narrow to pointy tips.

Seed: Round with a greenish-yellow husk (stains clothing); from the outside, does not look like walnut; nut is inside husk; emerges September through October.

Bark: Light brown on surface; dark brown when cut; ridged.

Chestnut Oak

Leaf: Broad, flat; 4 to 6 inches long. Simple and unlobed, with rounded, regular teeth. Oblong/elliptical shape, under surface mostly smooth.

Seed: Acorn; 1 inch long with thin, warty cup. Cup has short stalk, and scales do not overlap. Emerges September through October.

Bark: Gray-brown or black; older trees have ridged appearance.

Chinkapin Oak

Leaf: Simple; 4 to 7 inches long; toothed; broad and flat; not lobed. Dark green on top; pale green on bottom. Longish, slender stem.

Seed: Acorn; 1/2 to 1 inch long; green on tree, dark brown when mature; usually has large cap; emerges September to October.

Bark: Brown-gray; thin and flaky; rough.

Flowering Dogwood

Leaf: Simple; smooth wavy edge; oval or elliptical in shape; with distinctive deep, parallel veins.

Seed: Shiny, oval red berries in small clusters 1/4 to 1/2 inch long

Bark: Gray and smooth when young, turning scaly to finely blocky.

Flower: White clusters appearing in mid-spring

Hazelnut

Leaf: Simple; 2 to 5 inches long; doubly-toothed edge; broadly oval with heart-shaped or round base. Dark green above with light green underside; hairy texture.

Seed: Brown seeds enclosed in leaves; leaf case green in summer, turns to brown as seeds ripen in fall.

Bark: Smooth; brown-gray in color; ridges form criss-cross pattern later in life.

Northern Red Oak

Leaf: Broad, flat, simple; 5 to 8 inches long; bristly tips. Lobed but not deeply; lobes narrow towards tip.

Seed: Acorns oblong; 3/4 to 1 inch long; flat, thick cap with short or no stem; emerge August to late October.

Bark: On older trees, wide, flat ridges with shallow furrows between them, resembling ski tracks.

Overcup Oak

Leaf: Irregularly lobed; may have 5-9 lobes; leaves 6 to 10 inches long. Green with white underside.

Seed: Acorn; 1/2 to 1 inch long; almost completely covered by very warty cap; emerges September to October.

Bark: Gray-brown and scaly; irregular plates; resembles White Oak.

Pawpaw

Leaf: Broad, flat, simple (not lobed); 5 to 11 inches long; 2 to 3 inches wide; smooth edges; widest towards tip; base narrows to a short stem. Light green.

Seed: Banana-like fruit; up to 5 inches long; green at first and ripening to yellow and brown in fall.

Bark: Smooth gray-brown with gray patches; wart-like ridge protrusions.

Persimmon

Leaf: Broad, flat, simple; 2.5 to 5 inches long; not lobed; edges smooth but may be wavy; widest toward tip or middle. Lustrous green.

Seed: Plum-like fruit; up to 2 inches in diameter; orange to black when ripens September through November.

Bark: Dark; broken up into thick square plates; younger bark smoother and ridged.

Pin Oak

Leaf: Deeply lobed; 3 to 6 inches long; bristle tips. Lustrous green top, pale green below; u-shape between major lobes.

Seed: Acorn; 1/2 inch long; round with flat, thin cap; red-brown in color with red-brown scales; emerges September to December.

Bark: Gray-brown; very tight and thin; stays mostly smooth, but can develop ridges.

Sassafras

Leaf: 3 to 6 inches long; 1 to 3 lobes with one dominant lobe; strong, distinct smell and taste in leaves. Notches between lobes U-shaped. Smooth edges.

Seed: Dark-blue, fleshy berries on red stalks; emerge August to September.

Bark: Brown with cinnamon-brown under-bark when cut; coarsely ridged and furrowed; spicy aroma. Historically used to make root beer.

Southern Red Oak

Leaf: Deeply lobed; 5 to 9 inches long; two common lobe arrangements: 3-lobe or 5- to 7-lobe; bristle tips. Somewhat shiny.

Seed: Acorn; 1/2 inch long; orange-brown; Thin, flat cap; emerges September to October.

Bark: Thick; dark gray-brown; scaly ridges and deep furrows; inner bark slightly yellow.

Swamp Chestnut

Leaf: Simple; pointed tip; 4 to 8 inches long; 3 to 5 inches wide; round, blunt teeth. Lustrous dark green top with pale downy underside.

Seed: Acorn; 1 to 1½ inch long acorns; chestnut brown; cap scaly and bowl-shaped; emerge throughout fall.

Bark: Ash-gray; scaly; furrows with age.

Swamp White Oak

Leaf: Simple; 3 to 7 inches long; 2 to 4 inches wide; not lobed; rounded, irregular, wavy teeth. Lustrous dark green top with very pale and downy underside.

Seed: Acorn; 1 inch long; tan in color; cap bowl-shaped with longer stalk than Swamp Chestnut; emerges throughout fall.

Bark: Gray; scaly; develops ridges with age.

Water Oak

Leaf: 2 to 4 inches long; very variable in shape; can have from 0 to 7 lobes; can have bristles or not.

Seed: Acorns; ½ inch long, very dark; flat, scaly cap; emerges in September.

Bark: Dark; tight; develops rough patches and ridges as it ages.

White Ash

Leaf: Compound; 8 to 12 inches long; 7 leaflets with short stems; irregularly toothed edges. Dark green; hairless. *Often confused with Green Ash.*

Seed: Single-wing helicopter; matures October to November; falls in winter. Grows singly or in pairs on stem.

Bark: Ash-gray to brown in color; ridges form diamonds.

White Oak

Leaf: 4 to 7 inches long; with 6-10 rounded lobes; deep notched between lobes. Bright green on top, whitish below. Surfaces smooth to touch.

Seed: Acorn; warty cap that always detaches when ripe. Emerges July through September.

Bark: Whitish or ashy gray; scaly; patchy; blocky.

Willow Oak

Leaf: 2 to 5 inches long; linear in shape (can curve somewhat); smooth edges; bristle tip.

Seed: Acorn; ¼- ½ inch; nearly round; yellow-green hue; thin, saucer-like, scaly caps.

Bark: Gray; older trees are darker and have thick ridges and deep, irregular furrows.

Yellow Poplar

Leaf: 4 to 8 inches long; somewhat shaped like a tulip or a hand; four lobes with pointed tips.

Seed: Single-wing helicopter; 1 1/2 inches long; emerges between August and October. Grows in flower-like clusters.

Bark: Light gray-green; smooth when young, developing diamond patterns of ridges when older.