

## *Growing Native*

# TREE ID BOOKMARKS

*CUT OUT THE FOLLOWING CARDS ALONG THE THICK LINES SO THAT EACH CARD SHOWS BOTH A PHOTO AND DESCRIPTION OF THE SPECIES. LAMINATE FOR DURABILITY.*



### **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.

*Photos provided by Virginia Tech Dpt. Of Forestry*



### **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.

*Photos provided by Virginia Tech Dpt. Of Forestry*



### **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.

*Photos provided by Virginia Tech Dpt. Of Forestry*



## 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.

*Photos provided by Virginia Tech Dept. Of Forestry*



## 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.

*Photos provided by Virginia Tech Dept. Of Forestry*



## 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.

*Photos provided by Virginia Tech Dept. Of Forestry*



## 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.

*Photos provided by Virginia Tech Dept. Of Forestry*



## 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.

*Photos provided by Virginia Tech Dpt. Of Forestry*



## 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.

*Photos provided by Virginia Tech Dpt. Of Forestry*



## 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.

*Photos provided by Virginia Tech Dpt. Of Forestry*



## 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.

*Photos provided by Virginia Tech Dpt. Of Forestry*



### 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.

*Photos provided by Virginia Tech Dpt. Of Forestry*



### 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.

*Photos provided by Virginia Tech Dpt. Of Forestry*



### 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.

*Photos provided by Virginia Tech Dpt. Of Forestry*



### Willow Oak

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

**Seed:** Acorn; 1/4- 1/2 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.

*Photos provided by Virginia Tech Dpt. Of Forestry*



## 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.

*Photos provided by Virginia Tech Dpt. Of Forestry*



## 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.

*Photos provided by Virginia Tech Dpt. Of Forestry*



## 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; 1/2 inch long, very dark; flat, scaly cap; emerges in September.

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

*Photos provided by Virginia Tech Dpt. Of Forestry*



## 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.

*Photos provided by Virginia Tech Dpt. Of Forestry*



GROWING NATIVE



## 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.

*Photos provided by Virginia Tech Dpt. Of Forestry*



GROWING NATIVE



## 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

*Photos provided by Virginia Tech Dpt. Of Forestry*