

Key to Trees of the Smokies -TREMONT area (with leaves)

(Starting at #1 decide which description is the most true and follow to the number indicated)

- 1A If the tree is **evergreen** go to... 23
1B If the tree is **deciduous** (not evergreen) go to ... 2
- 2A If the leaves are **compound** (more than one **leaflet**) go to... 3
2B If the leaves are **simple** (has a bud or bud scar at stem of leaf) go to...6
- 3A If the leaves (not leaflets) or leaf scars are **opposite** go to... 4
3B If the leaves (not leaflets) or leaf scars are **alternate** go to... 5
- 4A If the leaflets come out from a central point it is a BUCKEYE
4B If the leaflets are arranged opposite along the leaf stem it is an ASH
- 5A If end leaflets are larger than the others it is a HICKORY
5B If the leaflets are small ovals without teeth it is a BLACK LOCUST
5C If there are more than nine leaflets that are toothed and of similar size it is a BLACK WALNUT
- 6A If the leaves or **leaf scars** are **opposite** go to... 7
6B If the leaves or **leaf scars** are **alternate** go to... 9
- 7A If the leaf has more than one main vein coming out from near the stem (**palmate**) go to... 8
7B If the leaf has a central vein with other veins curving out from it, it is a DOGWOOD
- 8A If the leaf is fairly large, with three main lobes or points, and the bark may be striped it is a STRIPED MAPLE
8B If the place where the lobes separate is V shaped and leaf stems may be reddish it is a RED MAPLE
8C If the place where the lobes separate is U shaped and it looks like the leaf on the Canadian flag it is a SUGAR MAPLE
- 9A If the leaf is **lobed** go to...10
9B If the leaf is somewhat heart shaped or is very lop-sided where leaf joins stem go to ...13
9C If leaf is not lobed or as above go to...14
- 10A If the leaf has several main veins coming out from or near the base of the leaf (**palmate**) go to...11
10B If the leaf has one central vein that the other veins come out from go to...20
- 11A If the leaf is star shaped it is a SWEETGUM
11B If the leaf is not star shaped and the bark may be peeling it is a SYCAMORE
11C Leaves not like above go to... 12
- 12A If there are three shapes of leaves on the tree, some with two lobes, some with one, and some with none, it s a SASSAFRAS
12B If the leaf looks like the tip was cut off, and is shaped like a cathead it is a TULIP TREE
- 13A If the leaf has no teeth on its **margin** it is a REDBUD
13B If the leaf has teeth on its **margin** it is a BASSWOOD
- 14A if the leaf margin has teeth go to ... 15
14B if the leaf margin does not have teeth go to ...22
- 15A If the leaf has one tooth on the margin for each vein go to.. 16
15B If the leaf has more than one tooth per vein go to 17
- 16A If the buds are yellow/brown and pointed and the bark is smooth it is a BEECH
16B Is the tree is not as above and the leaf is over 4" long it is an AMERICAN CHESTNUT
- 17A If the leaves are 4" or longer go to... 18
17B If the leaves are shorter than 4" go to... 19
- 18A if leaves are light green and taste sour when chewed it is a SOURWOOD
18B If leaves are wider from the middle to the base it is a SILVERBELL
- 19A If leaves are smooth and shiny it is a BLACK CHERRY
19B If the bark has horizontal markings and veins on the leaves give them texture (leaves may also be in pairs on some twigs) it is a BIRCH
19C if the bark is smooth and muscular looking (like it has tendons) -it is a MUSCLEWOOD
(other possibilities = OILNUT, SERVICEBERRY, ELM)
- 20A If the leaf is large and has lobes only at the base of the leaf it is a FRASER MAGNOLIA
20B If the leaf looks like the tip was cut off, and is shaped like a cathead it is a TULIP TREE
20C If the leaf is not as above go to... 21
- 21A If the lobes are rounded it is a WHITE or CHESTNUT OAK
21B If the lobes are pointed it is a RED or BLACK OAK
21C If there are three shapes of leaves it s a SASSAFRAS
- 22A if the leaf is pointed at the tip but not at the base it is a BLACKGUM
22B If the leaf pointed at the tip and the base, is more of a shrub than a tree, and leaves have a citrus smell when crushed, it is a SPICEBUSH
(other possibilities = MAGNOLIA, PAW PAW, PERSIMMON, MOUNTAIN LAUREL, or RHODODENDRON)
- 23A If tree has leaves not needles go to... 24
23B If tree has needles go to... 25
- 24A If it has prickles on the leaf margin it is a HOLLY
24B If leaves are light green and shorter than 3" it is a MOUNTAIN LAUREL
24C If leaves are dark green and longer than 3" it is a RHODODENDRON
- 25A if it has five needles in a group it is a WHITE PINE
25B If it has needles 1/2" or shorter in length it is a HEMLOCK
25C If needles are not as above go to ...26
- 26A If needles are in groups of 3 it is a PITCH PINE
26B If needles are in groups of 2 with small cones and needles that are twisted it is a VIRGINIA or SCRUB PINE
26C If needles are in groups of 2 (maybe some in 3s) with 2" flexible needles it is SHORT LEAF PINE
26D If needles are in groups of 2 and has large bristly cones it is a TABLE MOUNTAIN PINE