Ashes

Genus Characteristics

Leaves: Ash leaves are compound and oppositely arranged. Leaves end with a terminal leaflet, unlike lookalike black walnut. Margins can be entire or serrated. Size, shape, presence of pubescence (hair), and leaflet stalks can all be indicators of species ID.

Fraxinus latifolia

Fraxinus americana

Fruit: Ash seeds are samaras, held singly instead of in pairs like maples. Samaras can be called keys. Samaras mature through the summer. There are many cultivars in the nursery trade that are sterile and do not produce samaras.

Fraxinus ornus

Fraxinus excelsior

Bark and Branches: Ash bark furrows with age and develops a regular diamond-shaped pattern. Terminal buds are prominent and dark. They look like chocolate chips. Branches have a pronounced branch collar (ridge where branch attaches to trunk).

Fraxinus pennsylvanica

Fraxinus excelsior

Fraxinus spp.

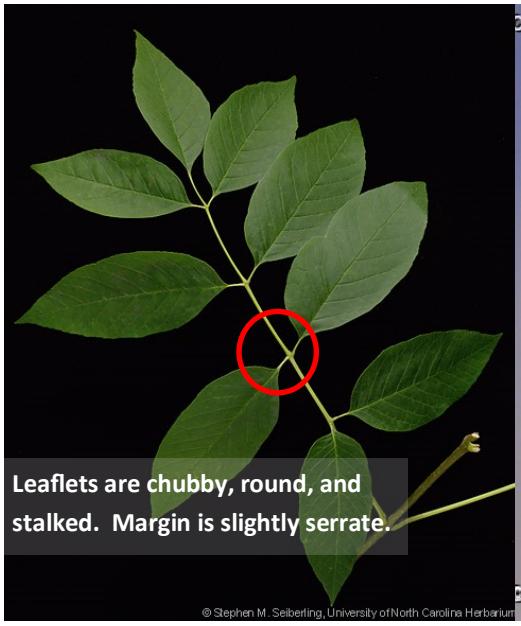
Form: Ash trees are medium-form tree, maturing to about 60 feet. Our native Oregon ash can mature to 80-90 feet. Crown is round and open.

Fraxinus americana

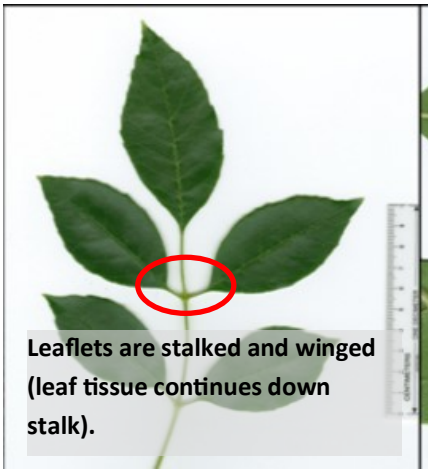
Fraxinus angustifolia 'Raywood'

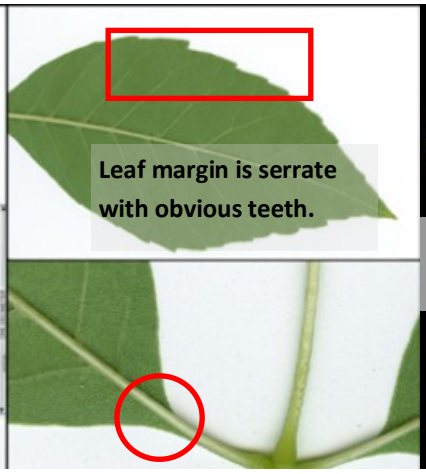
Ashes

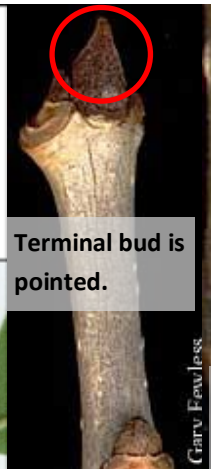
Fraxinus americana—White ash



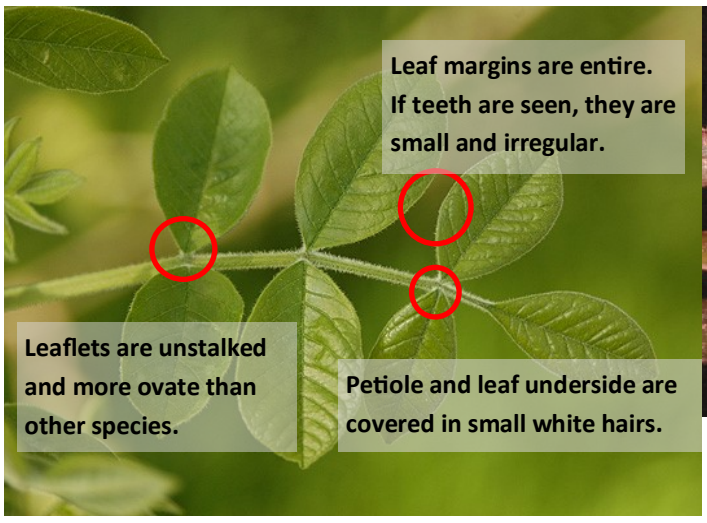
Fraxinus pennsylvanica—Green ash



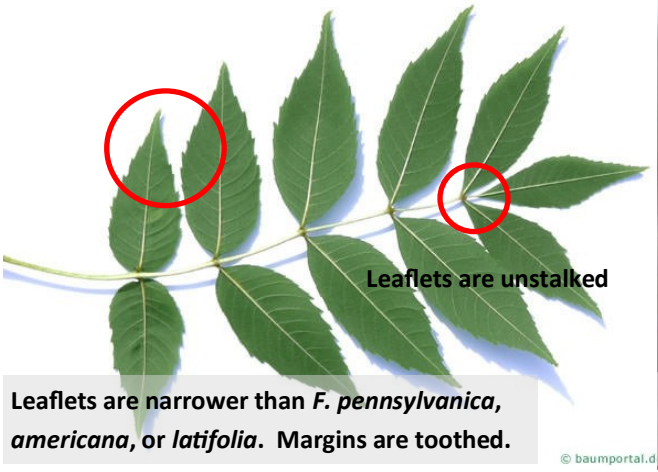




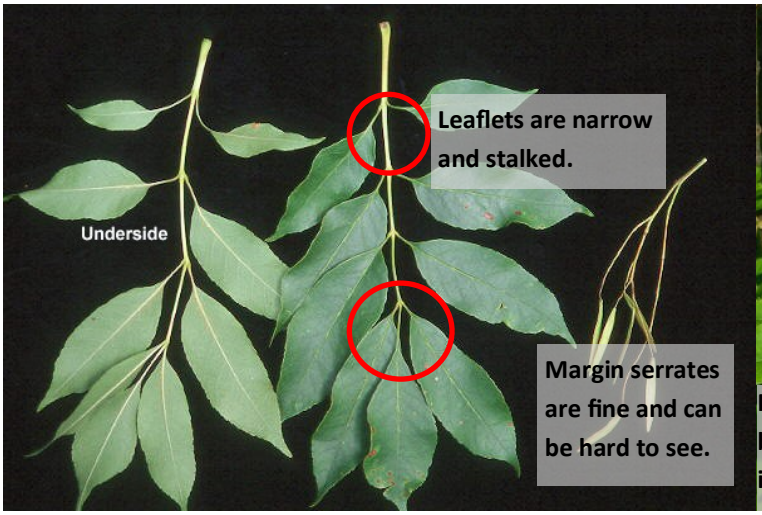
Fraxinus latifolia—Oregon ash

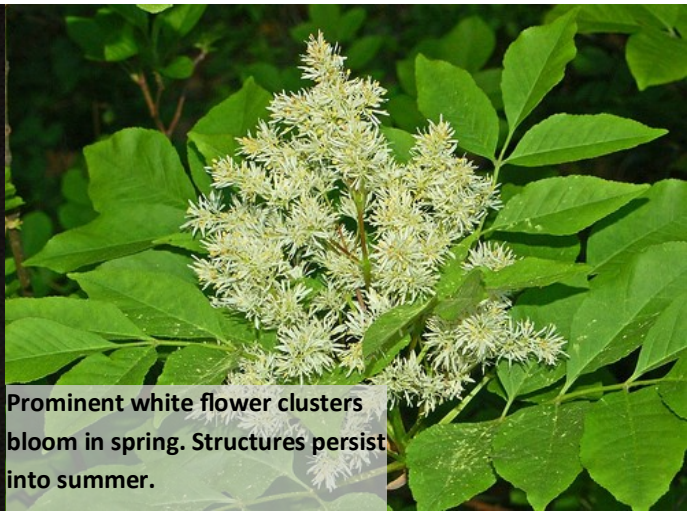


Fraxinus excelsior—Common ash



Fraxinus ornus—Flowering ash





Other Common Ash Varieties

Fraxinus angustifolia : Leaves are opposite but can appear whorled in groups of 3 or 4. Petioles often have a reddish tinge. Raywood is a common cultivar in Portland.

Golden Desert Ash: A common cultivar of *F. excelsior* Leaves emerge yellow and fade to pale green.