PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION℠
Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland

Tree Identification for Portlanders

Vocabulary

Alternate - leaves that are staggered or not placed directly across from each other on the twig.

Blade - the flat part of a leaf, or leaflet, characteristic of broadleaf trees.

Bract - a modified leaf that bears a flower.

Broadleaf - a tree with leaves that are flat and thin and generally shed annually.

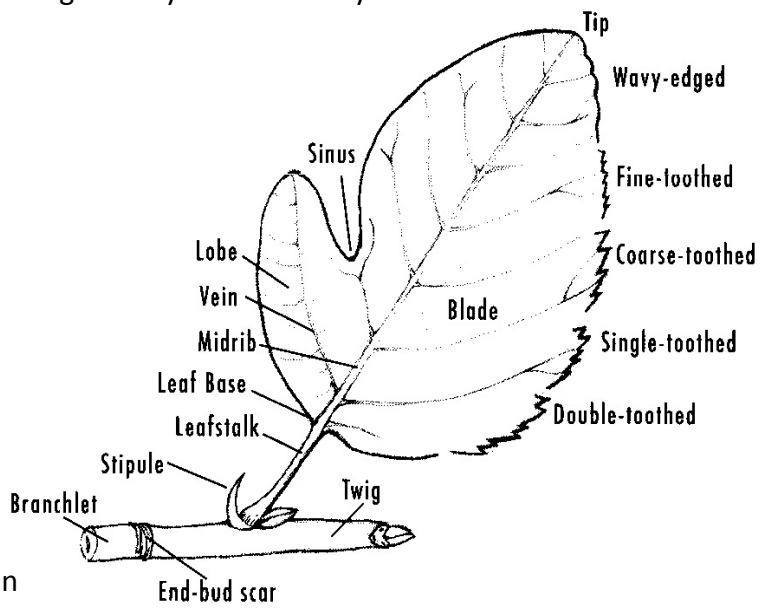
Bud scar - the marks remaining after bud scales drop in spring.

Compound leaf - a leaf with more than one blade. All blades are attached to a single leafstem. Where the leafstem attaches to the twig there is a bud.

Conifer - cone-bearing tree.

Deciduous - shedding all leaves annually.

Entire - a leaf margin with smooth, untoothed edges.



Evergreen - trees with needles or leaves that remain alive and on the tree through the winter and into the next growing season.

Invasive - plant known to reproduce rapidly and quickly spread over a large area.

Leaf - primary, photosynthetic organ of a plant that is connected to a stem by a petiole.

Leaf base - bottom part of the leaf blade.

Leaf scar - the mark left on the twig where the leaf was previously attached.

Lenticel - small opening in the bark that permits the exchange of gases.

Lobes - projections that shape a leaf.

Margin - the edge of a leaf.

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Name	Genus	Species
Common	Maple	Norway
Scientific	*Acer*	*platanoides*

Midrib - the primary rib or central vein of a leaf.

Needle - slender leaf of a conifer.

Opposite - 2 or 3 leaves that are directly across from each other on the same twig.

Palmate - blades or lobes or veins of the leaf arranged like fingers on the palm of a hand.

Persistent - remains on the tree for more than one year.

Petiole - the leafstalk that connects the blade(s) to the twig.

Pinnate - blades or lobes or veins of the leaf arranged like the vanes of a feather.

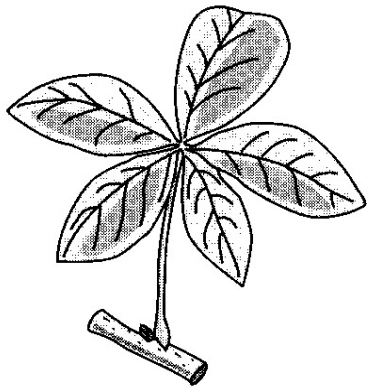
Samara - winged fruit.

Simple leaf - a single leaf blade with a bud at the base of the leafstem.

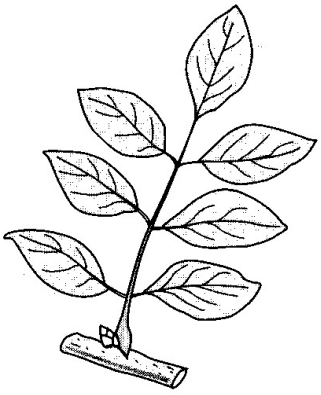
Sinus - indentation between lobes on a leaf.

Spurs - stubby, often sharp twigs.

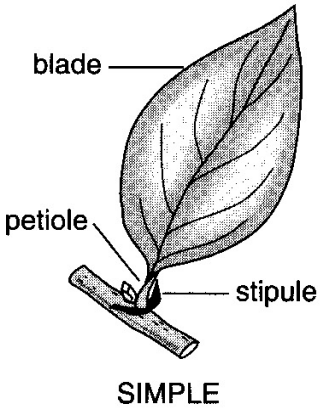
Teeth - notches on the outer edge of a leaf.



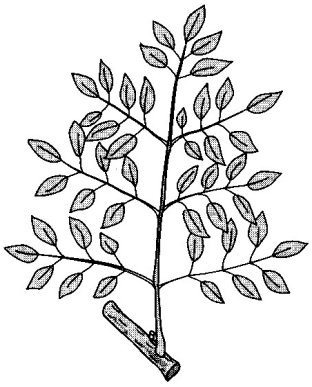
PALMATELY COMPOUND



PINNATELY COMPOUND



SIMPLE



BIPINNATELY COMPOUND

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Worksheet

Please watch our Tree Identification video presentation before proceeding.

Select one of the tree species covered in the presentation.

Using the Heritage Trees Webmap, is there a Heritage Tree in Portland of this species?

No Yes If yes, give one current tree number: _____

Using available resources, share one interesting fact about this tree species:

Is this tree deciduous or evergreen? Deciduous Evergreen

Is the branching pattern of this tree opposite or alternate? Alternate Opposite

Are the edges of the leaves of this tree smooth or serrated? Smooth Serrated