

Key to Common Trees of Conway-Robinson and Whitney State Forests

This key will help you identify some of the trees on this State Forest. To use the key, always start with # 1, and choose the better of the two statements. Follow the directions to other numbers, reading both choices carefully each time. When you get to the name of a tree, stop, and you'll have the name of the tree. Check the picture and description in the book to see if you are right.

1- Tree has needles – go to 2 OR

1- Tree has leaves – go to 4

2- Needles 6 to 9 inches long, in groups of 3 – Loblolly pine (Pinus taeda) OR

2- Needles shorter than 6 inches and not in groups of 3 – go to 3

3- Needles short, thick, twisted, in groups of 2 – Virginia pine (Pinus virginiana) OR

3- Needles soft, in groups of 5 – Eastern white pine (Pinus strobus)

4- Leaves opposite each other on the twig – go to 5 OR

4- Leaves alternate with each other along the twig – go to 7

5- Leaves simple (having only one part) – go to 6 OR

5- Leaves compound (divided into several parts); bark with ridges interlaced to form diamonds – White ash (Fraxinus americana)

6- Leaves oval; bark gray, with small blocks – Flowering dogwood (Cornus florida) OR

6- Leaves with 3 to 5 main points, toothed edges; bark gray, smooth or with ridges – Red maple (Acer rubrum)

7- Leaves simple (having only one part) – go to 8 OR

7- Leaves compound (divided into several parts) and spicy-smelling; bark dark gray, with interlaced ridges – Mockernut hickory (Carya alba)

8- Leaves oval; bark dark gray, with furrows or square blocks – Blackgum (Nyssa sylvatica) OR

8- Leaves with rounded or pointed lobes (parts that stick out, giving the leaf a unique shape) – go to 9

9- Leaves with pointed lobes – go to 10 OR

9- Leaves with smooth, rounded lobes; bark pale gray, loose and shredding, especially higher on the trunk – White oak (Quercus alba)

10- Leaves with 4 to 6 pointed lobes, the last two even with each other; bark light gray and furrowed – Yellow-poplar (Liriodendron tulipifera) OR

10- Leaves with 7 or more pointed, bristle-tipped lobes; bark gray with lighter “ski trails,” especially higher on the trunk – Northern red oak (Quercus rubra)