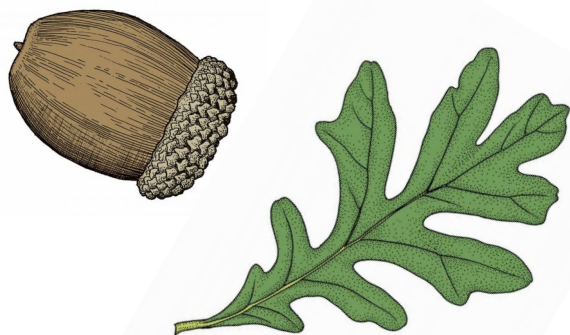


Trees of Franklin Creek

Take a hike through the natural areas surrounding Franklin Creek. Using the information below, see how many different types of trees you can find. Sharpen your skills by taking notes about the tree, what does its bark look like, what color and shape are its leaves.



White Oak

White Oaks are tall trees that live very long lives. On average, they are between 80-100 feet tall, but some have been known to grow over 150 feet! The bark of the white oak is grey in color and has deep grooves. The leaves start out bluish green in color, but turn orange and brown in autumn.



Bur Oak

Bur Oak trees are very common throughout Illinois. They can be up to 120 feet tall, and their trunks can be 5 feet wide! The acorns made by the Bur Oak look similar to those of other oaks, but the cup at the top of the acorn covers anywhere from 1/2 of the acorn to almost the entire nut.

Bitternut Hickory

Bitternut Hickory trees grow to be about 60 to 100 feet tall. They have long, oval shaped leaflets that have jagged edges. The bark on the trunk of is grey in color and looks quite rough, but the bark on the branches is smoother and light brown. The Bitternut Hickory gets its name from the bitter nuts it produces. These nuts are so sour that most animals don't eat them.



Black Oak



Black Oak trees grow between 60 and 80 feet tall when they are fully formed. The bark on the trunk is a dark grey that almost looks black. The tops of their leaves are dark green and shiny. The acorns on the Black Oak take two years to fully form. The cups at the tops of these acorns cover about half of the nut.

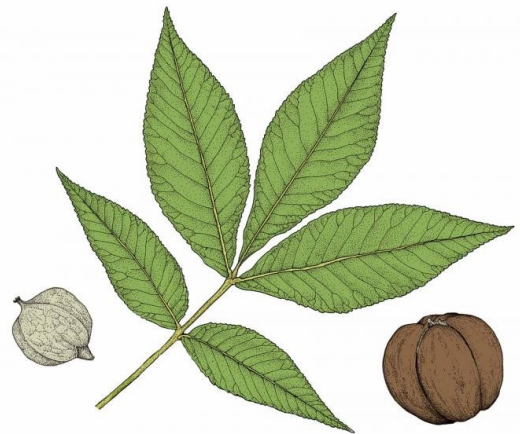
Black Willow



Black Willows vary greatly in height. Most of the time, they grow between 30 and 60 feet tall, but when they are planted in areas with perfect conditions, they can be over 120 feet tall. They grow best in wetter areas, like along waterways, but they can grow in many different areas. Their long, thin leaves make the Black Willow an easy tree to identify.

Shagbark Hickory

Shagbark Hickory trees are fairly tall trees which grow to be from 70 to 90 feet. In the summer, the leaves of the shagbark hickory are a light yellow green, and they change into a golden brown color in the fall. Shagbark hickory trees require a large amount of space to grow properly, but they are a very common tree because they aren't as likely to get illnesses as other tree species.



Silver Maple



The Silver Maple is a very fast growing tree. These trees can grow anywhere from 50-80 feet. The Silver Maple earned its name by the look of their leaves. While the top of the leaf is green like most leaves, the bottom is silvery in color. This makes the tree look shimmery when the leaves blow in the wind. Silver Maples can grow almost anywhere in the United States and live over 130 years.



Paw Paw Tree

The Paw Paw Tree is quite a small tree. It only grows up to 20 feet tall, but usually stays closer to 15 feet. The leaves of the Paw Paw tree are very long, often they are around 12 inches. They are oval in shape with pointed ends. The Paw Paw Tree produces an interesting fruit. The fruit looks like a green potato, but people describe its taste as a combination of vanilla custard, mango, and banana.



Sugar Maple

The Sugar Maple is a slow growing tree that can get very tall. Some even grow up to 100 feet. These are the trees that maple syrup comes from. The leaves of the Sugar Maple are somewhat hand shaped and have 3-5 lobes. They are a medium green color and turn into a yellowy orange during autumn. Sugar maples are very sensitive to pollution.

Hackberry

Hackberry trees are very large; they grow on average between 75 and 100 feet. It is very easy to figure out what trees are Hackberry trees simply by looking at their bark. When hackberry trees are younger, their bark has bumps that look similar to warts all over. As the tree gets older, these warts turn into long ridges along the bark that look like worms.



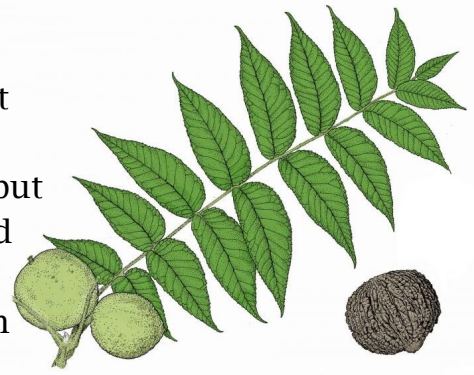
Red Oak

Red Oak trees can grow very tall. Some are even over 100 feet tall. They have a dark grey trunk, but their twigs are a much lighter yellow brown. Like all other oak trees, they produce an acorn, but the Red Oak tree acorn looks different than other acorns. They are quite rounded at the end, and the cap is much smaller than other acorn caps.



Black Walnut

Black Walnut Trees can grow very tall. It is not uncommon for them to reach heights of 150 feet. These trees grow really well near water, but because of a chemical called juglone produced by their roots, other plants cannot grow near the black walnut. Some Black Walnut trees can live for over 200 years.



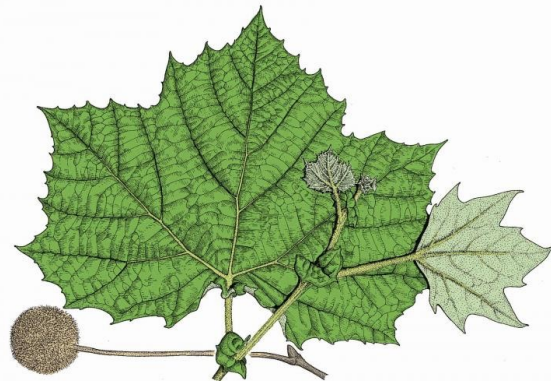
Cottonwood Tree



Cottonwood trees grow around 60 to 80 feet tall. Their bark is yellowish grey in color. When cottonwood trees are young they have smooth bark, but it gets rougher as the tree matures. These trees grow really well along riverbanks and on lakeshores. They are commonly known for their cotton seeds that float through the air in the summertime.

Sycamore Tree

Sycamore trees grow to be between 75 and 100 feet. These trees prefer to grow in open areas, as shady areas makes it difficult for them to survive. They are easily spotted by their unique bark. The bark of Sycamore trees has greyish brown scales that peel off of the tree and reveal patches of white, grey, and green underneath. The tops of the trees are almost fully white.



Slippery Elm

Even though the Slippery Elm is a smaller tree, only growing 40 to 80 feet tall, it is extremely abundant. The Slippery Elm is Illinois most common tree. They have the ability to grow almost anywhere which makes them a popular tree to plant. The leaves of the Slippery Elm are a dull green and the tops have a rough texture. The Slippery Elm gets its name from the fact that its inner bark is wet and sticky, making it slippery to the touch.



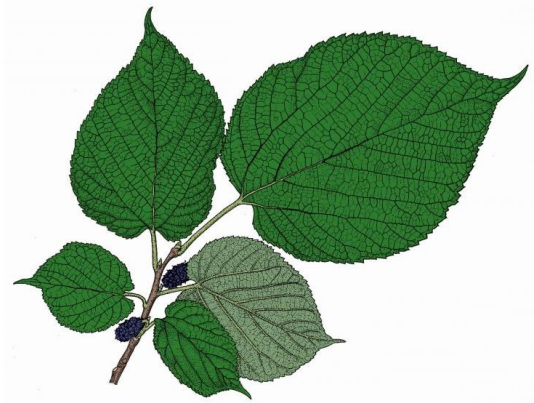


River Birch

The River Birch is a shorter tree that usually has multiple trunks. These trees typically only reach 50 feet tall, but they have been known to grow up to 90 feet when conditions are right. It is quite easy to tell a River Birch from other trees, as the bark on the River Birch peels away from the trunk of the tree in relatively large chunks. The bark is greyish brown and as it peels away it shows the reddish color underneath.

Red Mulberry

The Red Mulberry is a medium sized tree. It can grow anywhere from 30 to 60 feet. These trees grown near the edges of habitats where they get both sun and shade. In the summer months, the Red Mulberry produces a red to black berry that a lot of animals enjoy eating, so there are often many types of critters near Red Mulberry trees.



Basswood

The American Basswood grows to 50-100 feet. American basswood leaves are dark green and oval shaped. The trunk is grey in color and has a rough texture made up of ridges. The American Basswood grows very well in shaded areas, so they are quite common in areas where woodlands have been established for some time. The seeds produced by this tree are a great food source for woodland mammals.



When you've found as many of these trees as you can, bring this packet back to the mill to earn your Junior Naturalist Certificate!