Tracking The Trees And Shrubs Of Kananaskis Country
INTRODUCTION TO IDENTIFICATION KEYS:

This identification key will help you to discover the names of most of the trees and shrubs found in Kananaskis Country. This identification key will not work well outside of the Kananaskis Country area.

Each tree and shrub interacts with all the other living and non-living parts of its environment. Please treat each plant with respect and do not pick or harm them.

HOW TO USE THE IDENTIFICATION KEY:

This identification key is based on multiple choice statements that describe what the plants look like or plant characteristics.

Examine the tree or shrub that you want to identify. Look at the stems, leaves, berries, or any other features that you can see.

Now read the first two statements, 1A & 1B on page 1. Determine which of the key’s statements, 1A or 1B, best match the plant’s characteristics. Then go to the next set of statements indicated by your choice at 1A or 1B.

Continue working through the key until you reach the name of the plant. If the drawing does not match the plant that you are trying to identify, you probably made the wrong choice at some point in the key. If this happens, start working through the key again.

HINTS THAT WILL HELP YOU TO USE KEYS:

Read carefully and read each statement thoroughly. Most people make mistakes with keys by not reading the statements correctly. Take your time.

Some trees look like shrubs, and some shrubs look like trees. It often depends on where the plants are growing, and what things have happened to them. If you think you are identifying a tree, but you can not locate the plant in the tree section of the key, then start over. This time start at the shrub section on page 8.

Look at the entire plant. If the key asks a question about the plant’s leaves, look at several leaves from different parts of the plant. In some choices in the key, non-specific words such as many, several, and most are used. When you see these words, take a close look at the plant you are trying to identify. Don’t just examine one or two leaves, but look over 10 or 20. If possible, find other nearby plants of the same type and examine them as well before proceeding to the next choice in the key.

Use the Tree and Shrub Checklist. By recording information on the check list about plants that you have already identified, you will save time finding the names of new plants. Both the common names and the scientific names are given for each tree and shrub. This will help you locate information about the plants in other books.

Where the trees and shrubs are growing, or their habitat. Most plants grow best in fairly specific areas or habitats. The habitat must provide water, the correct type of soil and soil nutrients, the temperature must be within certain limits, exposure to wind and sun must be correct for the plant’s growth, and other plant species that could crowd the plant out must be within certain limits.
Once you have identified a plant, record the type of habitat you found it in. This information can make it easier to find the same type of plant again. Habitat information can also eliminate certain species since many plants are only found in specific habitats.

Remember though, plants can sometimes be found in places that they normally do not grow in. Look around the area for more of the same species. If there are only a few plants of the type you are trying to identify, then chances are good that the plant probably is not normally found in the habitat that you are in.

Acknowledgements

Many of the illustrations were reproduced from *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest*, by Hitchcock, Cronquist, Ownbey, and Thompson; University of Washington Press; Seattle, Washington; 1969. Courtesy of the University of Washington Press.

References

Inkpen, Wayne. *Guide to the Common Native Trees and Shrubs of Alberta*. Alberta Environmental Protection Services, Pollution Control Division, Pesticide Chemicals Branch.


Use this checklist to help you keep track of the plants that you identify. Useful information that you should record is where you found the plant (location), the time of year (date), and what type of environment you found the plant in, or its habitat.

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KEY TO THE TREES AND SHRUBS OF KANANASKIS COUNTRY

1A. Plant is a TREE with one main stem: Go to 2A & 2B

1B. Plant is a SHRUB with more than one main stem: Go to PAGE 8 SHRUBS

2A. Tree with leaves: Go to 3A & 3B TREES WITH LEAVES

2B. Tree with needles: Go to PAGE 4 EVERGREEN TREES

3A. Leaves have a round leaf stem. If you place a leaf stem between your thumb and forefinger, you can roll it back and forth: Go to 4A & 4B

3B. Leaves have a flattened leaf stem. If you place a leaf stem between your thumb and forefinger, you can not easily roll it back and forth: Aspen Poplar

Aspen Poplar
( Populus tremuloides )
Native people used the white dusty coating on the bark of this tree to protect themselves from sunburn just as we use sun screen.
4A. Leaves have **pointed teeth** along their edges: Go to 5A & 5B

4B. Leaves have **rounded teeth** along their edges. Crush one leaf, it will have a resinous odor similar to pine sap: **Balsam Poplar**

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**Balsam Poplar**  
( *Populus balsamifera* )  
Resin from the buds of these trees was used to make cough syrup. The wood is used to make packing boxes.

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5A. Leaves **are not doubly toothed** along their edges: Go to 6A & 6B

5B. Leaves **are doubly toothed** along their edges. Tree has **white or light brown bark**: **Paper Birch**

If the plant is not similar to the drawing of Paper Birch, go to page 8 SHRUBS and begin working through the key.

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**Paper Birch**  
( *Betula papyrifera* )  
Native people used the bark of this tree to make containers and canoes. The sap was made into a sweet drink.
6A. Trees with oval-shaped leaves. Teeth along edges of leaves are small, all nearly the same size, and all come to a fine point: Choke Cherry

**Choke Cherry**  
*Prunus virginiana*  
The fruit of this tree is bitter, but is used to make jelly. Native people dried the fruit for use in the winter months. The fruit pits, leaves, and inner bark are poisonous.

6B. Trees that have pear-shaped leaves. Teeth along the edges of the leaves are not all the same size: Pin Cherry

**Pin Cherry**  
*Prunus pensylvanica*  
The bright red fruit of this tree is a favourite of many birds. The fruit pits, leaves, and inner bark are poisonous.
EVERGREEN TREES

7A. Needles **are attached** to the branches **singly**: Go to 8A & 8B

7B. Needles are **not attached** to the branches **singly**: Go to 11A & 11B

8A. Needles are **3-sided or square**. If you place one needle between your thumb and forefinger, you **can roll it back and forth**. When you touch a branch, the needles **will feel sharp**: Go to 9A and 9B

8B. Needles are **flat**. They **can not be easily rolled** between your thumb and forefinger. When you touch a branch, the **needles do not feel sharp**: Go to 10A & 10B

9A. The **tips** of the **cone scales** are broadly **rounded** and **not ragged** looking. **No hairs** along **young branches**: **White Spruce**

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**White Spruce**

(*Picea glauca*)

This is an important lumber species. Native people used the pliable roots to lace together tools and utensils.
9B. The tips of the cone scales are ragged looking. The young branches have hairs on them: **Englemann Spruce**

**Englemann Spruce**
(Picea engelmannii)
This tree often interbreeds with White Spruce and can be difficult to identify. Usually, Englemann Spruce is found at higher elevations than White Spruce.

10A. The needles are green on top and have lighter green or white bands on their undersides. Each cone scale has a 3-pointed projection: **Douglas Fir**

**Douglas Fir**
(Pseudotsuga menziesii)
The fine-grained wood of this tree is strong and resists rotting. In the Bow Valley, Douglas Fir trees were used for railroad ties and bridges when the Canadian Pacific Railway was built through the area in the 1800s.

10B. The needles have light green or white bands on both the top and bottom of each needle. Each cone scale has only one projection: **Subalpine Fir**

**Subalpine Fir**
( Abies lasiocarpa )
The resin or sap from these trees was used by native people to treat burns and skin sores.
11A. Needles are attached to the branches by short, woody spur shoots:
Go to 12A & 12B

11B. Needles are attached to branches in clusters of 2 or 5 needles held together by a sheath: Go to 13A & 13B

12A. **Young branches** are covered with tangled, woolly hairs. The **needles** near the **tips** of young **branches** are attached singly, rather than by short, woody spur shoots. Needles are nearly as thick as wide: *Alpine Larch*

*Alpine Larch*  
(*Larix lyallii*)  
These trees grow at high elevations and are easily spotted in the autumn since their needles turn golden. They lose all their needles each winter, unlike most other evergreen trees.

12B. **Young branches do not have** tangled, woolly hairs. **Needles** are not attached singly. The needles are wider than thick and have a triangle-shape in cross section: *Western Larch*

*Western Larch*  
(*Larix occidentalis*)  
These trees are more common in British Columbia, but can be found on ridge lines and some valley areas. Their needles turn golden in the autumn and then fall off for the winter months.
13A. **Needles** are attached in clusters of 5: Go to 14A & 14B

13B. **Needles** are attached in clusters of 2: **Lodgepole Pine**

14A. **Cones** are 8 to 25 cm long and light brown in colour. The **cone scales** are thick and woody, but thinner near their tips. These trees grow in the foothills usually along ridges. Sometimes they can be found in low elevation valleys: **Limber Pine**

14B. **Cones** are 5 to 8 cm long and purple in colour. The **cone scales** are thicker toward their ends. These trees are found at high elevation, not in the foothills: **Whitebark Pine**
15A. **Shrubs with needles and/or scale-like leaves:** Go to 16A & 16B

15B. **Shrubs with leaves:** Go to 18A & 18B

16A. Shrubs **with scale-like leaves** along their older branches. **Young branches may have needles toward their tips:** Go to 17A & 17B

16B. Shrubs **growing close to the ground. All the branches have needles.** May have a bluish, berry-like cone: **Common Juniper**

**Common Juniper**
( *Juniperus communis* )
At one time, Juniper cones were used to flavour gin. These cones or “berries” can be eaten raw as an emergency food, but they do not taste very good.
17A. **Ground hugging shrub.** Have scale-like leaves along their branches. May have needles along the young branches. May have bluish or whitish berry-like cones: **Creeping Juniper**

![Creeping Juniper](image)

**Creeping Juniper**
*Juniperus horizontalis*

Creeping Juniper and Rocky Mountain Juniper often interbreed so it can be difficult to tell them apart. Usually, Creeping Juniper plants seem to hug the ground.

17B. Similar to Creeping Juniper, but usually has one or more erect branches that may be up to 3 metres high: **Rocky Mountain Juniper**

![Rocky Mountain Juniper](image)

**Rocky Mountain Juniper**
*Juniperus scopulorum*

Rocky Mountain Juniper and Creeping Juniper can interbreed making it difficult to identify which shrub you are actually looking at. Usually, Rocky Mountain Juniper will have at least one branch that sticks up a half metre or more from the ground.
18A. Shrubs with spines and/or prickles along their branches: Go to 19A & 19B

18B. Shrubs without spines or prickles: Go to 23A & 23B

19A. Leaves are divided into three or more leaflets: Go to 20A & 20B

19B. Leaves are not divided into leaflets: Go to 22A & 22B

20A. Leaves are divided into more than 3 leaflets: Go to 21 A & 21B

20B. Leaves are divided into 3 leaflets. The leaflets have small teeth along their edges. The stems and branches are covered with prickles: **Wild Red Raspberry**

*Wild Red Raspberry*  
(*Rubus strigosus*)  
In late summer these shrubs will have red, juicy fruits that both wild animals and humans enjoy. In the spring, the young shoots can be peeled and eaten raw.
21A. **Branches** are covered with prickles. It is almost impossible to touch a branch without touching prickles. If **flowers** are present, they will usually be **attached singly** to new branches: **Prickly Rose**

![Prickly Rose](image)

*Prickly Rose (Rosa acicularis)*  
The Common Wild Rose and the Pricky Rose can interbreed making it difficult to determine which species you are looking at. In the autumn rose hips can be picked and eaten raw or used in jams. The pulp of the rose hip is rich in vitamin C.

21B. **Prickles** are scattered along the branches, but do not seem to cover every available space along the branches. If **flowers** are present, they are usually in clusters rather than singly: **Common Wild Rose**

![Common Wild Rose](image)

*Common Wild Rose (Rosa woodsii)*  
The Common Wild Rose and the Pricky Rose can interbreed making it difficult to determine which species you are looking at. In the autumn rose hips can be picked and eaten raw or used in jams. The pulp of the rose hip is rich in vitamin C.
22A. Shrubs with **branches** that are **covered** with **spines** and/or **prickles**:
    Go to 51A & 51B

22B. Shrubs that **have 1 spine below most leaves**. The **branches** are **not densely covered** with **spines** or **prickles**: **Round-leaved Hawthorne**

![Round-leaved Hawthorne](image)

*Round-leaved Hawthorne*
*(*Crataegus chrysocarpa*)
*In the autumn, tiny, apple-like red fruit are produced by these shrubs. The fruit is a favourite of white tailed deer.*

23A. Shrubs that **have silver-coloured leaves**. There can be rust-coloured dots on the undersides of the leaves: **Wolf Willow**

![Wolf Willow](image)

*Wolf Willow*
*(*Elaeagnus commutata*)
*These shrubs produce silver berries that contain large yellow seeds. Early settlers used these seeds to make ornaments and necklaces. The seeds may be poisonous.*
23B. Shrubs that **do not** have silver-coloured leaves: Go to 24A & 24B

24A. Shrubs that **do not** have brown or rust-coloured dots on the undersides of their leaves: Go to 25A & 25B

24B. Shrubs that **have brown or rust-coloured dots on the undersides of their leaves:** *Buffalo Berry*

**Buffalo Berry**
*Shepherdia canadensis*

The red berries produced by these shrubs are a favourite autumn food for bears. The berries have a soapy taste and can cause diarrhea in both bears and people.

25A. **Do not have** woolly, rust-coloured hairs on the undersides of their leaves: Go to 26A & 26B

25B. Shrubs that **have woolly rust-coloured hairs on the undersides of their leaves:** *Labrador Tea*

**Labrador Tea**
*Ledum groenlandicum*

In the spring and early summer, young leaves from these shrubs can be dried and used to make tea.
26A. Shrubs with warty projections covering the young branches: Go to 27A & 27B

26B. Shrubs without warty projections along their branches: Go to 28A & 28B

27A. Shrubs with round-shaped leaf blades that are 1 to 1.5 cm long and 1 to 1.5 cm wide. Each leaf has 20 or fewer teeth along their edges. These shrubs rarely grow higher than half a metre and are usually found in wet areas: Bog Birch

![Bog Birch](image1)

**Bog Birch**
( *Betula glandulosa*)
Bog Birch and Black Birch can interbreed making it difficult to tell the two species apart. This low growing shrub is usually found near fens and other wet areas. Moose and elk eat the young branches.

27B. Shrubs with leaf blades that are doubly toothed. The leaf blades are about one-third longer than they are wide. May grow several metres tall. Bark is usually black coloured: Black Birch

![Black Birch](image2)

**Black Birch**
( *Betula occidentalis*)
Black Birch, Bog Birch, and Paper Birch can interbreed making it sometimes difficult to tell the species apart. These shrubs are used as food by moose and elk. Native people used the Black Birch to make bows.
28A. Shrubs with 3 lobed leaves: Go to 29A & 29B

28B. Shrubs without 3 lobed leaves: Go to 32A & 32B

29A. Shrubs with leaves that are distinctly and deeply lobed. Leaves have a maple leaf shape: Go to 30A & 30B

29B. Shrubs that have slightly lobed leaves. Leaves are arranged opposite each other along the branches. The leaf stems are 1 cm or shorter: Low Bush Cranberry

30A. Leaves are arranged alternately along the branches: Go to 31A & 31B

Low Bush Cranberry (Vibernum edule) In the autumn, the reddish berries of these shrubs ripen, becoming soft and almost transparent. They can be used in jelly and sauces.
30B. Shrubs that have their leaves arranged opposite each other along the branches. Young stems are red-coloured: **Douglas Maple**

![Douglas Maple](image)

**Douglas Maple**  
*(Acer glabrum)*  
These Maples are too small to tap for Maple syrup, but in an emergency the young shoots can be eaten raw.

31A. There is a red colour at the point where the leaf stem joins the leaf blade. If berries are present in the autumn, they will be red. No prickles along the stems: **Wild Red Currant**

![Wild Red Currant](image)

**Wild Red Currant**  
*(Ribes triste)*  
In late summer the sweet, red fruit can be eaten raw or used in sauces.
31B. **No red colour** at the **point** where the **leaf stem joins the leaf blade. Berries** are black. No **prickles** along the stems: **Wild Black Currant**

![Wild Black Currant](image)

*Wild Black Currant*  
*Ribes hudsonianum*  
*In the autumn the black fruit can be used to make a tart jelly. Bears like these berries as much as people.*

32A. **Shrubs with leaflets**: Go to 33A & 33B

32B. **Shrubs without leaflets**: Go to 34A & 34B

33A. **Shrubs with 5 to 7 large leaflets** that are usually 10 to 28 cm long. **Leaflets have teeth** along their edges and are **arranged opposite** each other. The leaf stems have fine white hairs: **Red Elderberry and Black Elderberry**

![Red Elderberry and Black Elderberry](image)

*Red Elderberry and Black Elderberry*  
*Sambucus pubens* (red)  
*Sambucus melanocarpa* (black)  
*These two plants are difficult to tell apart. The Red Elderberry’s flower clusters are cone shaped and become red berries. The Black Elderberry’s flower clusters are wider and flatter and become purple-black berries. The berries have been known to make people sick.*
33B. Shrubs that have 5 small leaflets that are usually half a cm to 2 cm long. Leaves are clustered along the branches. Usually have yellow flowers: Shrubby Cinquefoil

![Shrubby Cinquefoil](image)

Shrubby Cinquefoil
(Potentilla fruticosa)
This shrub and its relatives are widely used in ornamental plantings or for hedges. The leaves can be used to make tea.

34A. Shrubs without fused pairs of leaves or tendrils at the ends of their branches: Go to 35A & 35B

34B. Shrubs with fused pairs of leaves or tendrils at the ends of their branches. These plants often resemble vines, but may grow as small shrubs: Twining Honeysuckle

![Twining Honeysuckle](image)

Twining Honeysuckle
(Lonicera dioca)
The flowers of this vine-like shrub are bright yellow when they first open, later they turn orange-red. Do not eat the red berries that take the place of the flowers during late summer.
35A. Shrubs that **have teeth** along the **edges** of their **leaves**. The teeth may be pointed or rounded: Go to 36A & 36B

![Leaf with teeth](image1)

35B. Shrubs **without teeth** along the **edges** of their **leaves**: Go to 42A & 42B

36A. **Teeth very small**, are **less than 1 mm long**: Go to 37A & 37B

36B. **Teeth are longer** than 1 mm: Go to 39A & 39B

![Leaf with teeth](image2)

37A. **Leaf blades** are **longer than 1 cm**: Go to 38A & 38B

![Leaf blade](image3)
37B. Small shrubs with leaf blades that are 1 cm or shorter. These forest shrubs almost always grow in the shade of evergreen trees: Grouseberry

38A. Leaves have small, sharply pointed teeth along their edges. In the autumn, this shrub has blueberry-like fruit. Shrub is usually 1 metre or shorter: Tall Bilberry
If the plant is not similar to the drawing of Tall Bilberry, go to Page 1, 2A & 2B and start working through the key again.
38B. **Leaves** have rounded teeth or have wavy-like edges. These shrubs may grow to 2 or 3 metres tall: **Willows**

![Willows](image)

**Willows**  
(*Salix spp.*)  
There are over 30 different species of Willows and they are difficult to tell apart. Willow bark contains salicin, one of the drugs found in Aspirin or ASA. These shrubs form an important food source for beaver, moose, and elk.

39A. **Teeth** along the edges of the leaves are all close to the same size. The teeth are only along one-half to three-fourths of a leaf’s edge: Go to 40A & 40B

39B. **Teeth** along the edges of the leaves are of an uneven length. The teeth can be found along the entire edge of a leaf: Go to 41A & 41B

40A. Shrubs with leaf stems that are half a cm or shorter: **White Meadowsweet**

![White Meadowsweet](image)

**White Meadowsweet**  
(*Spirea lucida*)  
In the spring, these shrubs produce flat-topped clusters of tiny white flowers. The flowers develop into small seed pods which are eaten by grouse and other birds.
40B. Shrubs with leaf stems that are longer than half a cm: Saskatoon Berry

[Saskatoon Berry
(Amelanchier alnifolia)]
These shrubs produce purple berries that ripen in late summer and can be used in pies and jams. Native people used the berries for food, medicine, and dyes.

41A. Shrubs that are sticky to the touch at the point where the leaves join the branches: Mountain Alder

[Mountain Alder
(Alnus crispa)]
The roots of these shrubs or small trees have swellings that contain bacteria that are able to remove nitrogen from the air in the soil. The nitrogen is converted to nitrates which the tree can use as a nutrient.
41B. Shrubs that are **not sticky** at the point where the leaves attach to the branches: **River Alder**

![River Alder](image)

*River Alder*  
(*Alnus tenuifolia*)  
Like the Mountain Alder, the roots of these shrubs or small trees contain a bacteria that can convert nitrogen from the air into nitrate. The trees can use this chemical for growth and when the trees die, the nitrate is released into the soil so that other plants can use it as a fertilizer.

42A. Shrubs with leaves that look as if they are **clustered near the ends of branches**: Go to 43A & 43B

![Clustered Leaves](image)

42B. Shrubs with leaves that look as if they **grow along the branches** rather than clustered near the ends of the branches: Go to 45A & 45B

43A. Shrubs **without reddish-coloured hairs** along their branches: Go to 44A & 44B

43B. Shrubs with **fine reddish-coloured hairs** along their branches. Leaves are usually longer than 4 cm: **Rocky Mountain Rhododendron**

![Rocky Mountain Rhododendron](image)

*Rocky Mountain Rhododendron*  
(*Rhododendron albiflorum*)  
These shrubs are found only in forest areas that have not been burned or logged for many years. They have beautiful, showy white flower clusters.
44A. Shrubs with fine white hairs covering the undersides of their leaves: Willow

Willow
(Salix spp.)
There are over 30 different species of Willows making identification of any one species very difficult. Willow bark contains salicin, one of the drugs found in Aspirin and ASA. These shrubs are an important food source for moose, elk, and beaver.

44B. Shrubs without white hairs on the undersides of their leaves: False Huckleberry

False Huckleberry
(Menziesia glabella)
These shrubs are usually found in moist Spruce and Sub-Alpine Fir forests. Many forest birds eat the seeds produced by these plants.

45A. Shrubs with leaves that are attached to the stems opposite each other: Go to 46A & 46B

45B. Shrubs with leaves that are attached alternately along the stems: Go to 50A & 50B
46A. Shrubs **without a milky sap**. Pull one leaf from the shrub to examine the sap: Go to 47A & 47B

46B. Shrubs **with a milky sap**. Young branches are usually reddish-coloured and older branches are green: *Spreading Dogbane*

47A. **Leaf stems** may be **absent** or are about **one half a cm or shorter**: Go to 48A & 48B

47B. **Leaf stems longer than half cm**. Older branches are **reddish-coloured**. Younger branches have white spots: *Red Osier Dogwood*
48A. Shrubs with leaves that are shorter than 10 cm: Go to 49A & 49B

48B. Shrubs with leaves that are longer than 10 cm. Leaves come to a point: Bracted Honeysuckle

49A. Shrubs with most leaves longer than 3 cm and some up to 8 cm long. Older leaves are thick and leathery. Most leaves will have a small point at their tip. May have clusters of dull greenish-white berries: Buckbrush

**Bracted Honeysuckle**

( *Lonicera involucrata* )
The dull-yellow flowers produced by these shrubs grow in pairs. The flowers mature into pairs of black berries that have been known to make people sick.

**Buckbrush**

( *Symphoricarpos occidentalis* )
Blackfoot and Cree natives used the stems from these shrubs to make arrow shafts. The leaves were boiled to make an eye medicine.
49B. **Spindly** shrubs with **most leaves** that are **2 to 3 cm** long. **Leaves** are **thin**, dull **blue-green on top** and **whitish underneath**. Many of the larger leaves will have a small indentation or notch at the leaf-tip. Many of the smaller leaves will be rounded at their tips. May have **white berries**: *Snowberry*

![Snowberry](image)

*Snowberry*
(*Symphoricarpos albus*)
These shrubs are usually found in open Aspen groves. Native people called the waxy, white berries “ghost berries”, and believed that the berries were the food of the dead.

50A. **Small shrubs** **with wedge-shaped leaves**. **Leaves** are **green** and **shiny on both sides**: *Dwarf Bilberry*

![Dwarf Bilberry](image)

*Dwarf Bilberry*
(*Vaccinium caespitosum*)
These small shrubs produce a delicious dark-blue fruit that bears and people like.
50B. Shrubs with **without wedge-shaped leaves. Leaves** are **darker green on their tops** and lighter green on their undersides. The **leaf blades** come to a **point**: *Willow*

![Willow](image)

*Willow* (Salix spp.)
There are over 30 different species of Willows making it difficult to identify any one species. Willow bark contains salicin, one of the drugs found in Aspirin and ASA. These plants are an important source of food for beaver, moose, and elk.

51A. Shrubs with **rounded Maple-shaped leaves. The leaf stems** are **shorter than the leaf blades**. Branches are prickly and there are **3 spines at the point where the leaf stem joins the branch.** Young **green berries** have **pale green lines** on them. Mature berries are dark blue or black and are **smooth and not bristly.**: *Wild Gooseberry*

![Wild Gooseberry](image)

*Wild Gooseberry* (Ribes oxycanthoides)
In late summer the green coloured fruit turns dark red. In the autumn or after several cold August nights, the fruit turns almost black, and becomes sweet.

51B. Shrubs with **narrow, pointed Maple-shaped leaves. The leaf stems** are **longer than the leaf blades. The berries are bristly.** Branches are covered with prickles: *Bristly Black Currant*

![Bristly Black Currant](image)

*Bristly Black Currant* (Ribes lacustre)
The purplish, bristly fruits of these shrubs is fairly tart. They were used by Native people to flavour pemmican.
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