ALBERTA ENVIRONMENT

Tracking The Trees And Shrubs Of Kananaskis Country

Alberta ENVIRONMENT

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.

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Gadd, Ben. 1986. *Handbook of the Canadian Rockies*. Corax Press, Jasper, Alberta.

Wilkinson, Kathleen. 1990. *Trees and Shrubs of Alberta*. Lone Pine Publishing.

TREE AND SHRUB CHECKLIST

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.

Name	Page	Location	Date	Habitat
Alpine Larch	6			
Aspen Poplar	1			
Balsam Poplar	2			
Black Birch	14			
Black Elderberry	17			
Bog Birch	14			
Bracted Honeysuckle	26			
Bristly Black Currant	28			
Buckbrush	26			
Buffalo Berry	13			
Choke Cherry	3			
Common Juniper	8			
Common Wild Rose	11			
Creeping Juniper	9			
Douglas Fir	5			
Douglas Maple	16			
Dwarf Bilberry	27			
Englemann Spruce	5			
False Huckleberry	24			
Grouseberry	20			
Labrador Tea	13			
Limber Pine	7			
Lodgepole Pine	7			
Low Bush Cranberry	15			

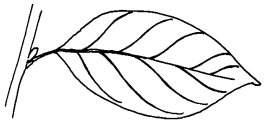
Name	Page	Location	Date	Habitat
Mountain Alder	22			
Paper Birch	2			
Pin Cherry	3			
Prickly Rose	11			
Red Elderberry	17			
Red Osier Dogwood	25			
River Alder	23			
Rocky Mountain Juniper	9			
Rocky Mountain Rhododendron	23			
Round-leaved Hawthorne	12			
Saskatoon Berry	22			
Shrubby Cinquefoil	18			
Snowberry	27			
Spreading Dogbane	25			
Subalpine Fir	5			
Tall Bilberry	20			
Twining Honeysuckle	18			
Western Larch	6			
Whitebark Pine	7			
White Meadowsweet	21			
White Spruce	4			
Wild Black Currant	17			
Wild Gooseberry	28			
Wild Red Currant	16			
Wild Red Raspberry	10			
Willows	21,24			
Wolf Willow	12			

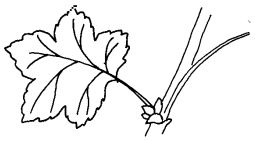
KEY TO THE TREES AND SHRUBS OF KANANASKIS COUNTRY

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**

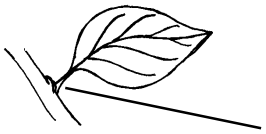




2B. Tree with **needles**: Go to **PAGE 4 EVERGREEN TREES**

TREES WITH LEAVES

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

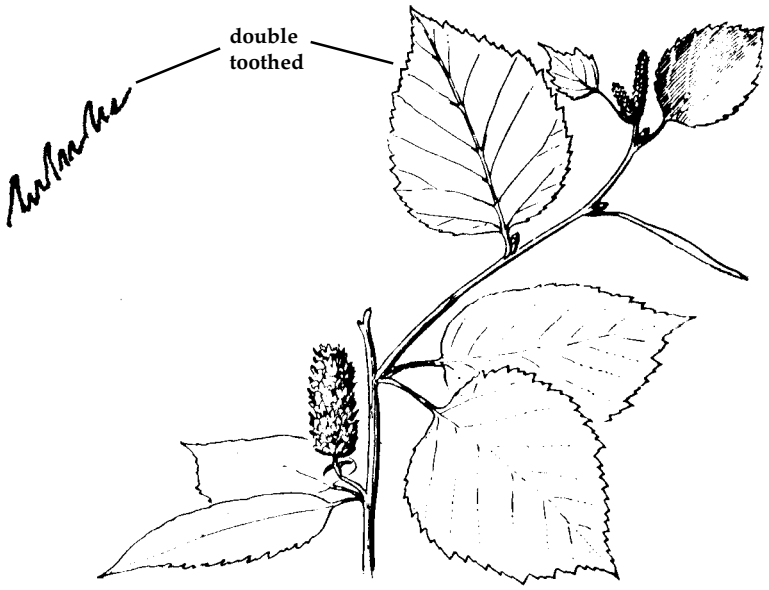
4B. Leaves have **rounded teeth** along their edges. Crush one leaf, it will have a resinous odor similar to pine sap:**Balsam Poplar**

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.

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.

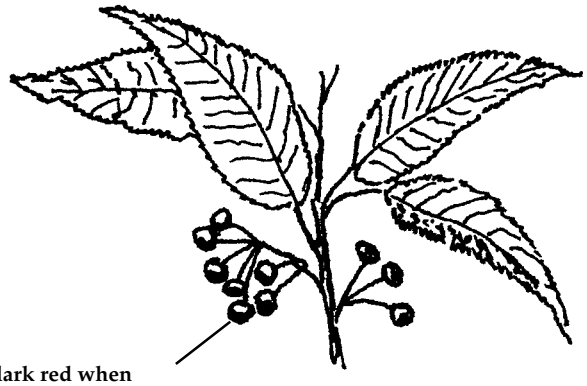


Paper Birch
(Betula papyrifera)
Native people used the bark of this tree to make containers and canoes. The sap was made into a sweet drink.

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**

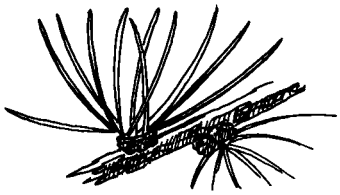


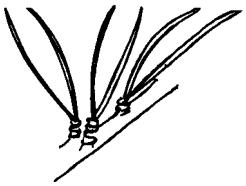
Pin Cherry
(Prunus pensylvanica)
The bright red fruit of this tree is a favourite of many birds. The fruit pits, leaves, and inner bark are poisonous.

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

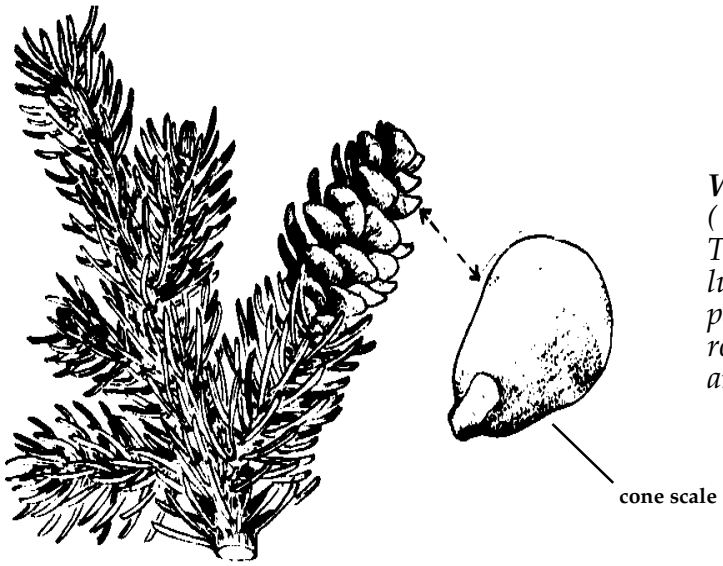




8A. Needles are **3-sided or square**. If you place one needle between your thumb and forefinger, you **can roll it back and forth**. When you touch a branch, the needles **will feel sharp**: Go to 9A and 9B

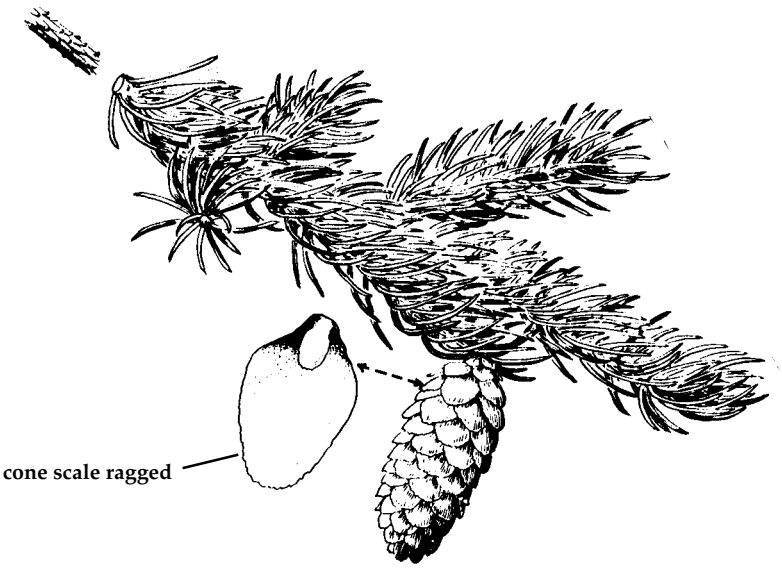
8B. Needles are **flat**. They **can not be easily rolled** between your thumb and forefinger. When you touch a branch, the **needles do not feel sharp**: Go to 10A & 10B

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



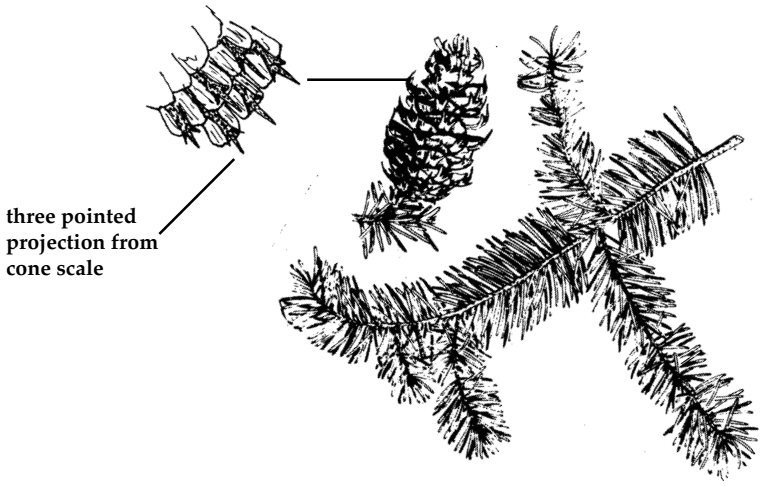
White Spruce
(Picea glauca)
This is an important lumber species. Native people used the pliable roots to lace together tools and utensils.

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 inter-breeds with White Spruce and can be difficult to identify. Usually, Englemann Spruce is found at higher elevations than White Spruce.

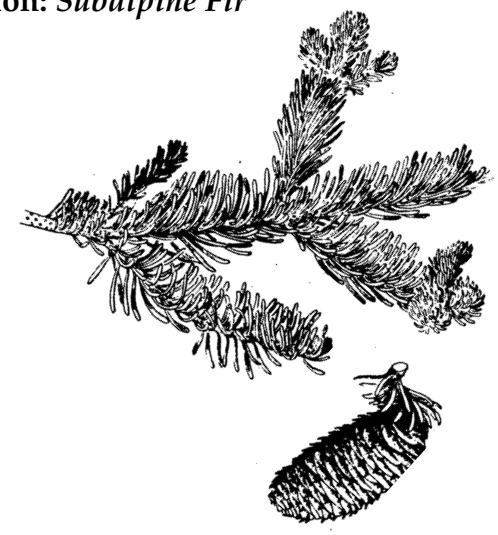
10A. The needles are **green on top** and have **lighter green or white bands on** their **under-sides**. Each **cone scale** has a **3-pointed projection**: **Douglas Fir**



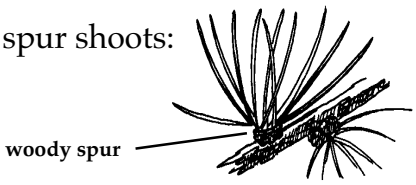
Douglas Fir
(Pseudotsuga menziesii)
The fine-grained wood of this tree is strong and resists rotting. In the Bow Valley, Douglas Fir trees were used for railroad ties and bridges when the Canadian Pacific Railway was built through the area in the 1800s.

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***

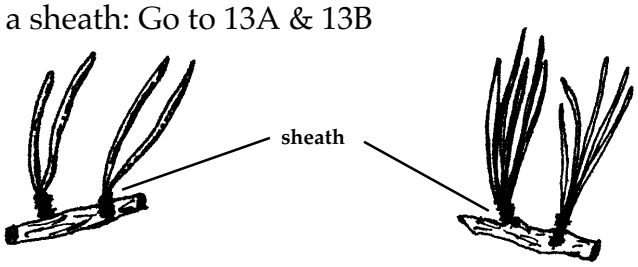
Subalpine Fir
(Abies lasiocarpa)
The resin or sap from these trees was used by native people to treat burns and skin sores.



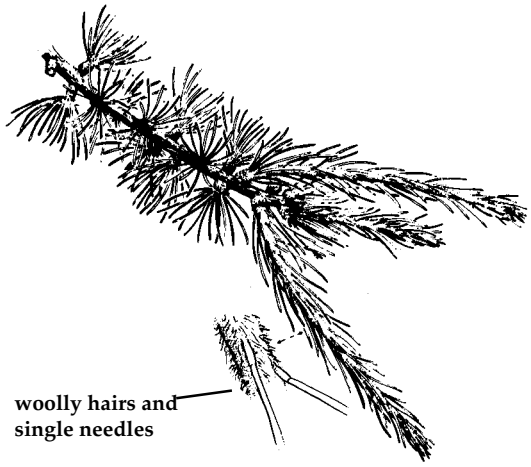
11A. Needles are attached to the branches by short, woody spur shoots: Go to 12A & 12B



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

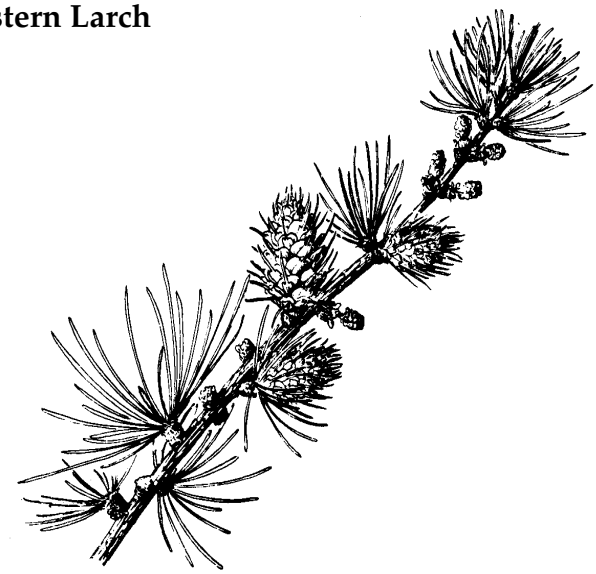


12A. **Young branches** are **covered with** tangled, woolly **hairs**. The **needles** near the **tips** of young **branches** are **attached singly**, rather than by short, woody spur shoots. Needles are **nearly** as **thick as wide**: ***Alpine Larch***



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.

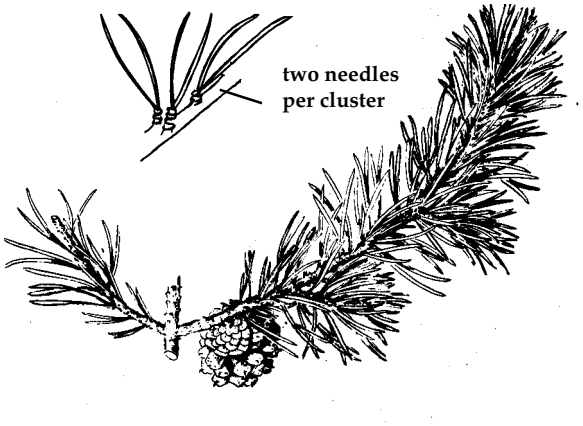
12B. **Young branches do not have** tangled, woolly **hairs**. **Needles** are **not attached singly**. The needles are **wider than thick** and have a **triangle-shape in cross section: Western Larch**



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.

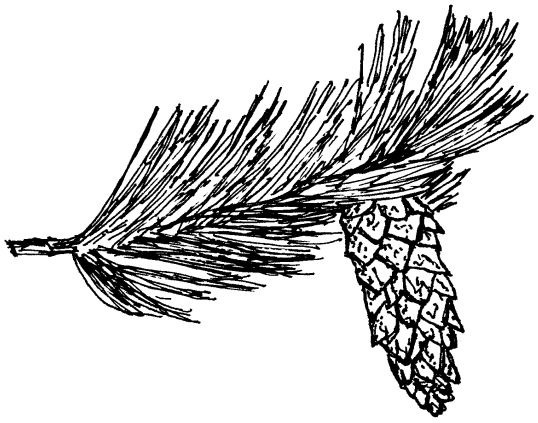
13A. **Needles** are **attached** in **clusters** of **5**: Go to 14A & 14B

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



Lodgepole Pine
(Pinus contorta)
These trees are usually found in valley areas. Their long straight trunks were used by Native people for tepee poles and building lodges. These trees are an important lumber species.

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**



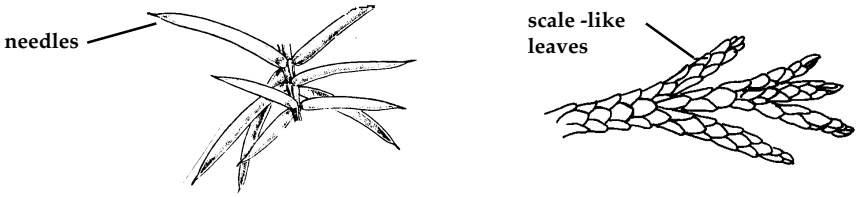
Limber Pine
(Pinus flexilis)
These pines grow slowly and can live to be several hundred years old.They often grow on foothill ridges that have sandstone outcroppings.

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**

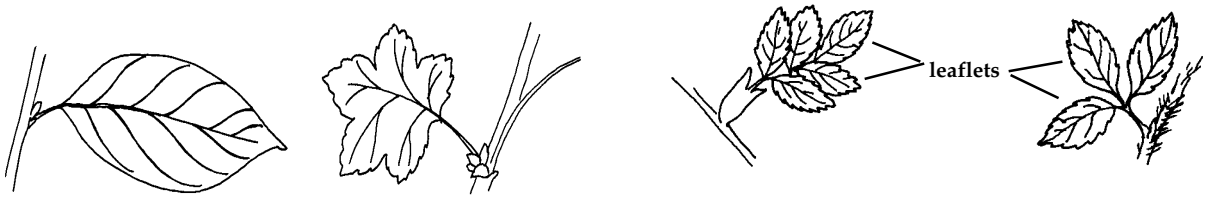
Whitebark Pine
(Pinus albicaulis)
Native people collected the seeds from the cones of these trees and ate them like nuts.

SHRUBS

15A. **Shrubs with needles and/or scale-like leaves**: Go to 16A & 16B

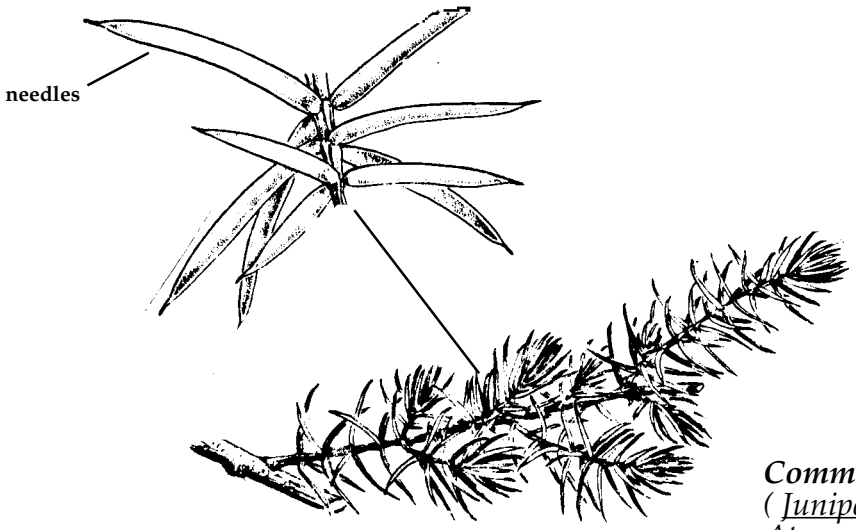


15B. **Shrubs with leaves:** Go to 18A & 18B



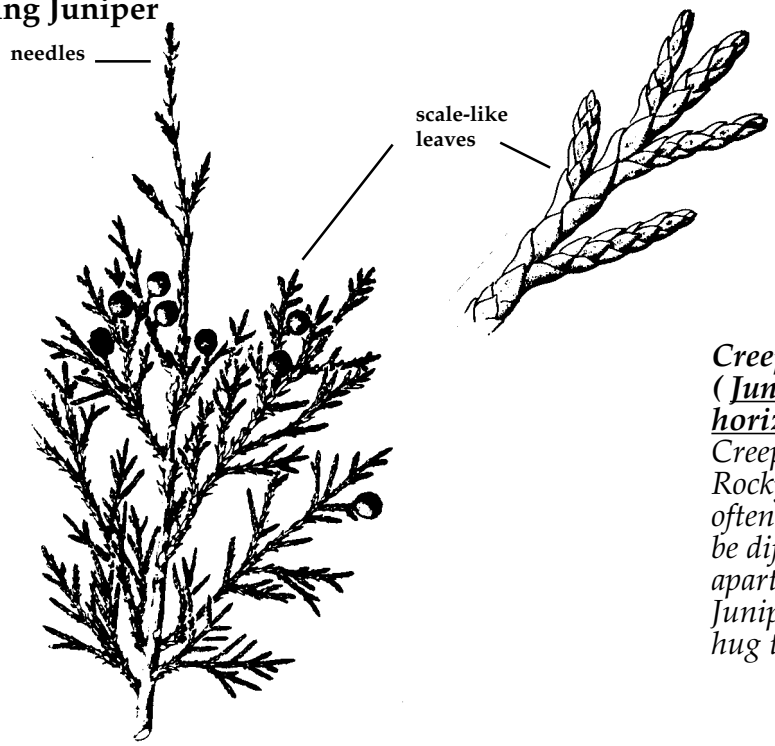
16A. Shrubs **with scale-like leaves** along their older branches. **Young branches may have needles toward their tips**: Go to 17A & 17B

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**

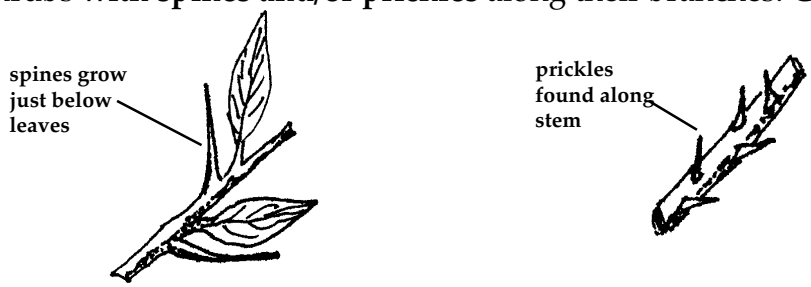


Creeping Juniper (<u>Juniperus horizontalis</u>)
Creeping Juniper and Rocky Mountain Juniper often interbreed so it can be difficult to tell them apart. Usually, Creeping Juniper plants seem to hug the ground.

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

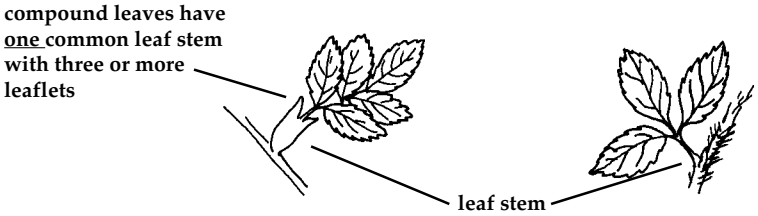
Rocky Mountain Juniper
(<u>Juniperus</u> <u>scopulorum</u>)
Rocky Mountain Juniper and Creeping Juniper can interbreed making it difficult to identify which shrub you are actually looking at. Usually, Rocky Mountain Juiper will have at least one branch that sticks up a half metre or more from the ground.

18A. Shrubs **with spines and/or prickles** along their branches: Go to 19A & 19B



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

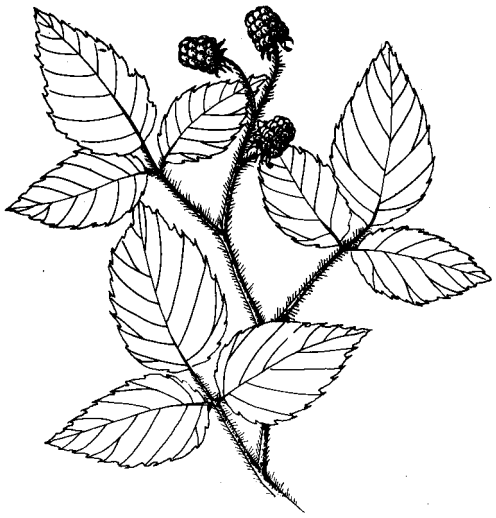
19A. **Leaves** are **divided** into **three or more leaflets**: Go to 20A & 20B



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

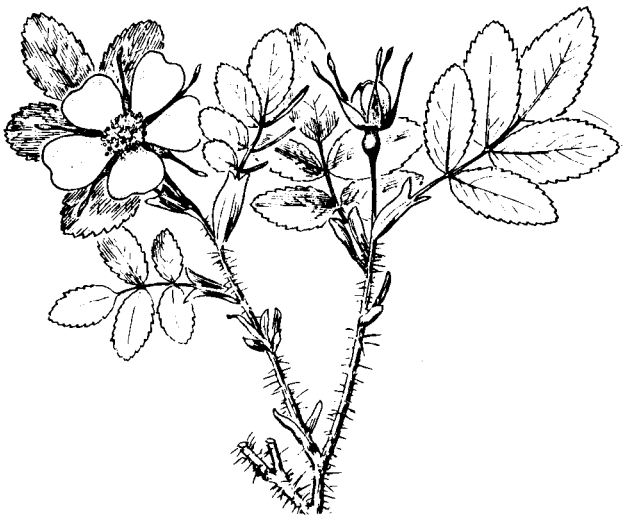
20A. Leaves are **divided into more than 3 leaflets**: Go to 21 A & 21B

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**



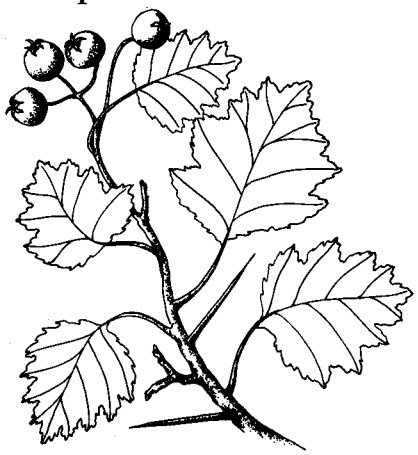
Prickly Rose
(Rosa acicularis)
The Common Wild Rose and the Pricky Rose can interbreed making it difficult to determine which species you are looking at. In the autumn rose hips can be picked and eaten raw or used in jams. The pulp iof the rose hip is rich in vitamen C.

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
(Rosa woodsii)
The Common Wild Rose and the Priclky 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 iof the rose hip is rich in vitamen 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
(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
(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 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

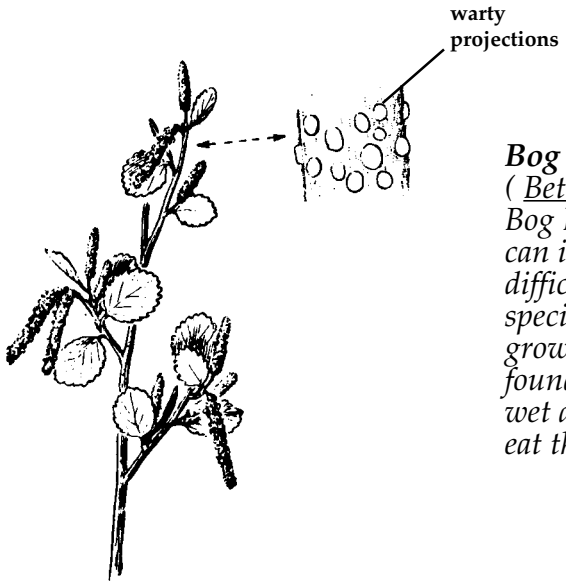
25B. Shrubs that **have** woolly **rust-coloured hairs** on the **undersides** of their **leaves**: **Labrador Tea**

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

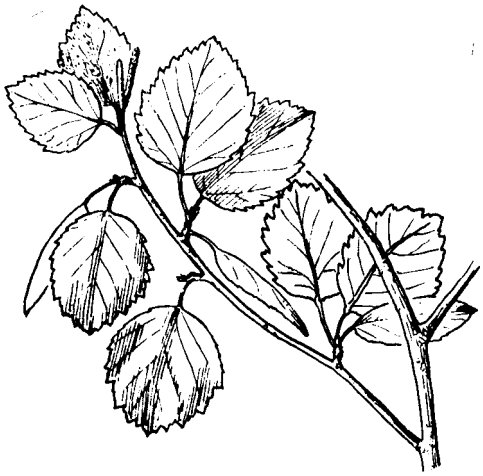
26B. Shrubs **without warty projections** along their branches: Go to 28A & 28B

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**



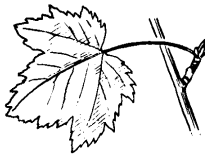
Bog Birch
(Betula glandulosa)
Bog Birch and Black Birch can interbreed making it difficult to tell the two species apart. This low growing shrub is usually found near fens and other wet areas. Moose and elk eat the young branches.

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**



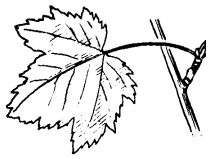
Black Birch
(Betula occidentalis)
Black Birch, Bog Birch, and Paper Birch can interbreed making it sometimes difficult to tell the species apart. These shrubs are used as food by moose and elk. Native people used the Black Birch to make bows.

28A. Shrubs **with 3 lobed leaves**: Go to 29A & 29B

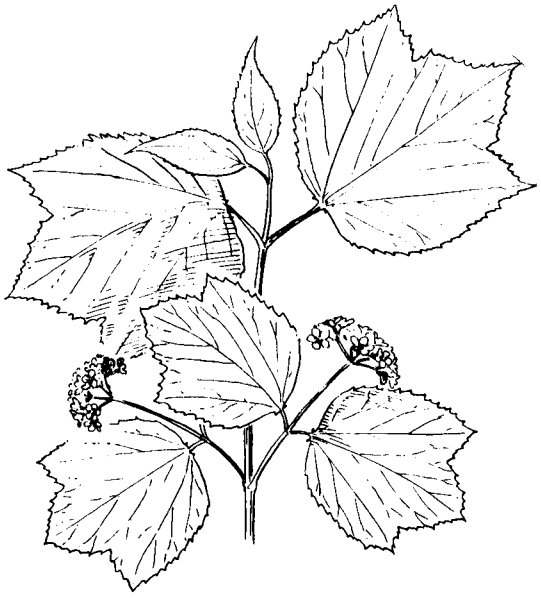


28B. Shrubs **without 3 lobed leaves**: Go to 32A & 32B

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

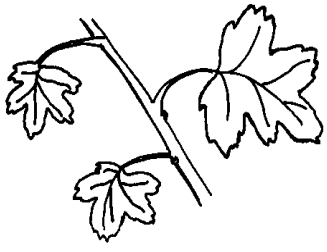


29B. Shrubs that have **slightly** lobed leaves. **Leaves** are **arranged opposite each other** along the branches. The leaf stems are 1 cm or shorter: **Low Bush Cranberry**

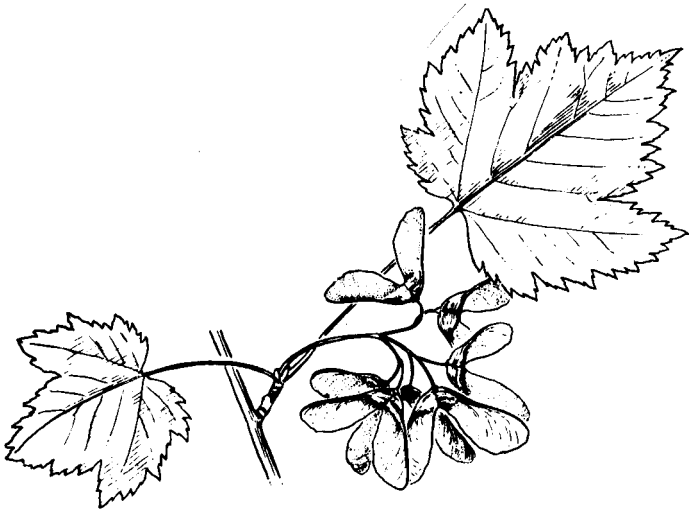


Low Bush Cranberry
(Vibernum edule)
In the autumn, the reddish berries of these shrubs ripen, becoming soft and almost transparent. They can be used in jelly and sauces.

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

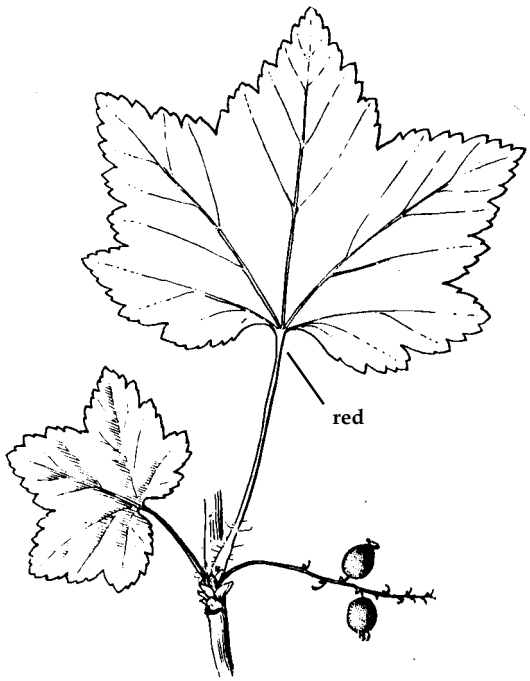


30B. Shrubs that have their **leaves arranged opposite** each other along the branches. Young stems are red-coloured: **Douglas Maple**



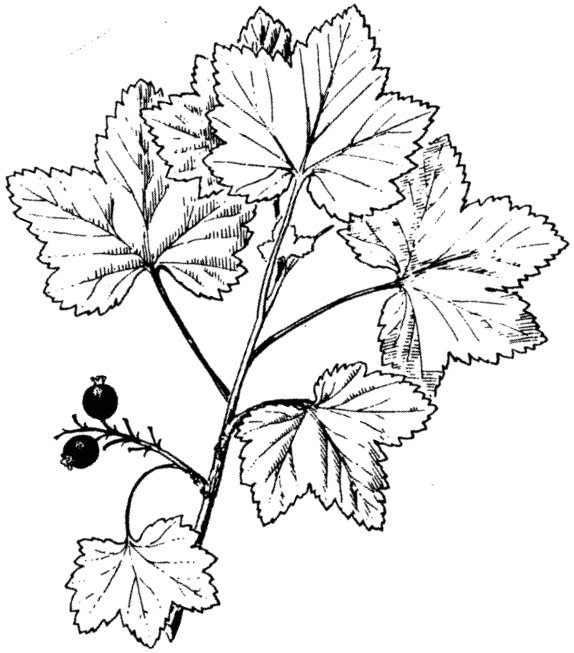
Douglas Maple
(<u>Acer glabrum</u>)
These Maples are too small to tap for Maple syrup, but in an emergency the young shoots can be eaten raw.

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**



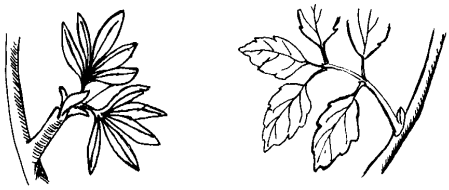
Wild Red Currant
(<u>Ribes</u> <u>triste</u>)
In late summer the sweet, red fruit can be eaten raw or used in sauces.

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**



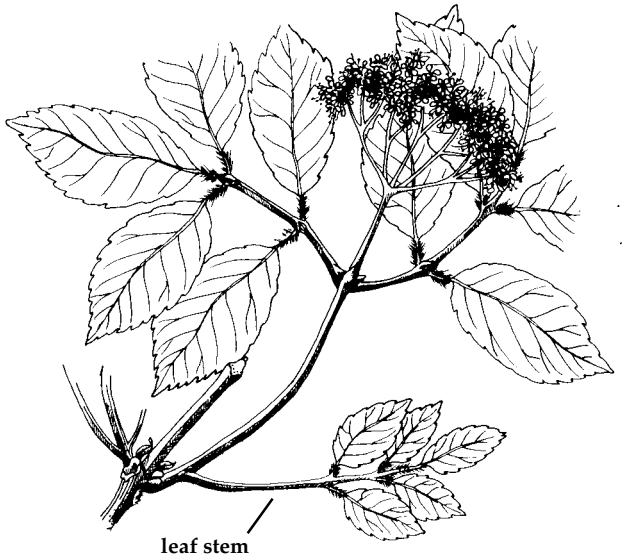
Wild Black Currant
(<u>Ribes</u> <u>hudsonianum</u>)
In the autumn the black fruit can be used to make a tart jelly. Bears like these berries as much as people.

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**



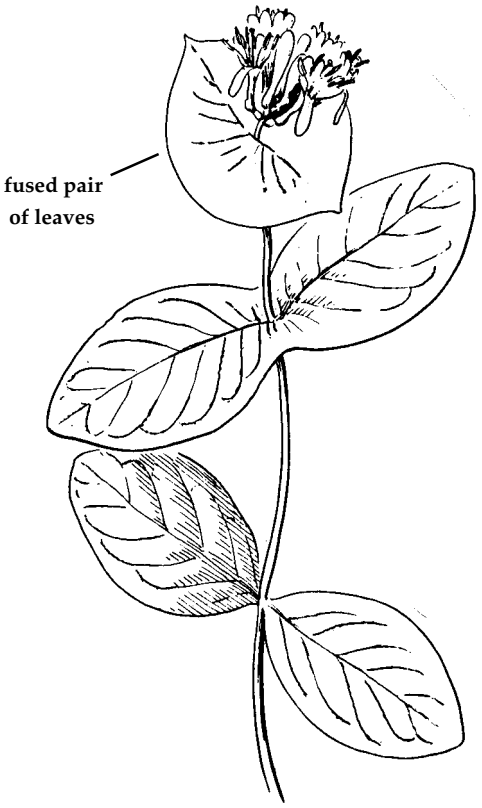
Red Elderberry and Black Elderberry
(<u>Sambucus</u> <u>pubens</u>) (red)
(<u>Sambucus</u> <u>melanocarpa</u>) (black)
These two plants are difficult to tell apart. The Red Elderberry's flower clusters are cone shaped and become red berries. The Black Elderberry's flower clusters are wider and flatter and become purple-black berries. The berries have been known to m ake 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**

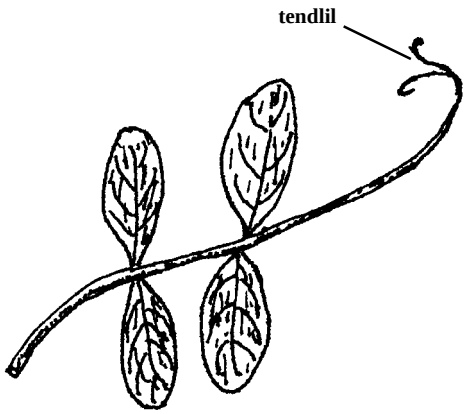
Shrubby Cinquefoil
(Potentilla fruticosa)
This shrub and its relatives are widly used in ornamental plantings or for hedges. The leaves can be used to make tea.

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

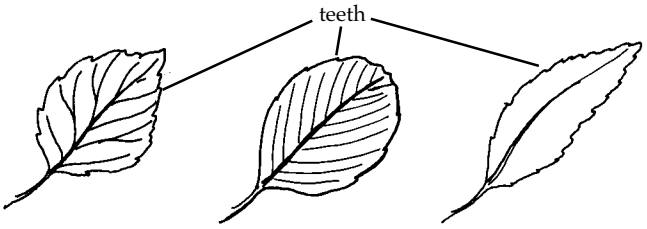
34B. Shrubs **with fused pairs of leaves or tendrils** at the ends of their branches. These plants often resemble vines, but may grow as small shrubs: **Twining Honeysuckle**



Twining Honeysuckle
(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.



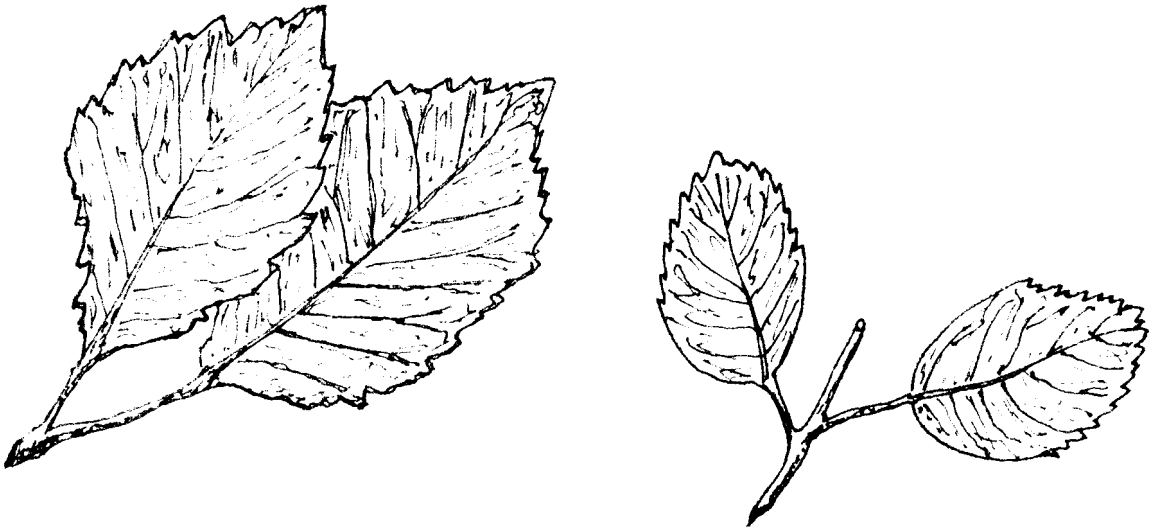
35A. Shrubs that **have teeth** along the **edges** of their **leaves**. The teeth may be pointed or rounded: Go to 36A & 36B



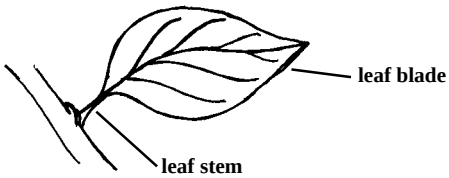
35B. Shrubs **without teeth** along the **edges** of their **leaves**: Go to 42A & 42B

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



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



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**

Grouseberry
(Vaccinium scoparium)
Native people picked the small red fruit from these low growing shrubs and then used the fruit much as we use raisins today.

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.

Tall Bilberry
(Vaccinium membranaceum)
In the autumn these shrubs have delicious, juicy, dark purple berries.

38B. **Leaves** have **rounded teeth** or have **wavy-like** edges. These shrubs may grow to 2 or 3 metres tall: **Willows**

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

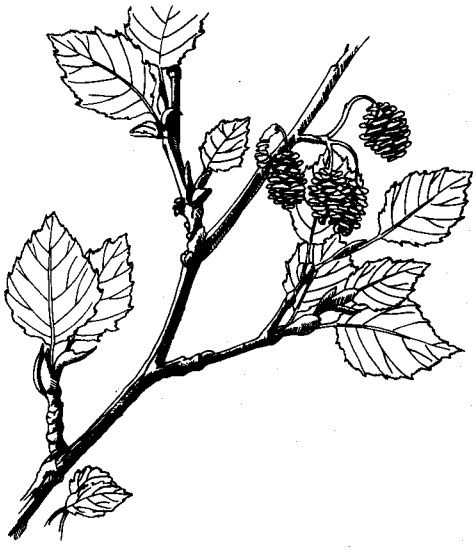
40A. Shrubs with **leaf stems** that are **half a cm or shorter: White Meadowsweet**

White Meadowsweet
(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
(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

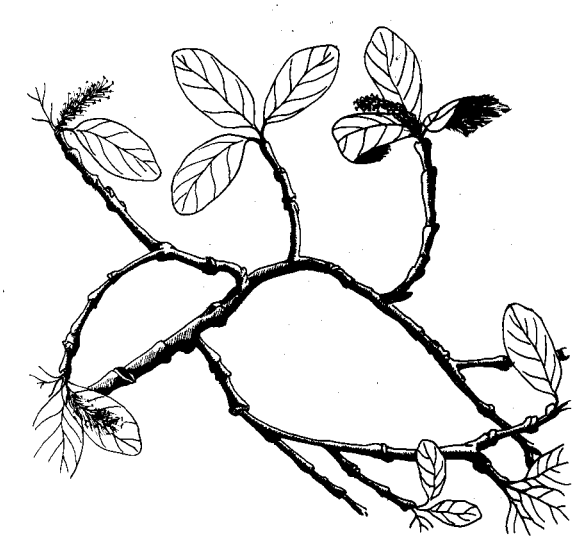
42B. Shrubs with **leaves** that look as if they **grow along the branches** rather than clustered near the ends of the branches: Go to 45A & 45B

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
(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**



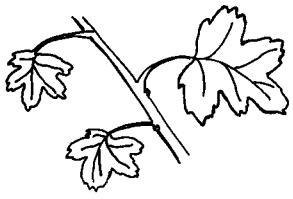
Willow
(Salix spp.)
There are over 30 different species of Willows making identification of any one species very difficult. Willow bark contains salicin, one of the drugs found in Aspirin and ASA. These shrubs are an important food source for moose, elk, and beaver.

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.

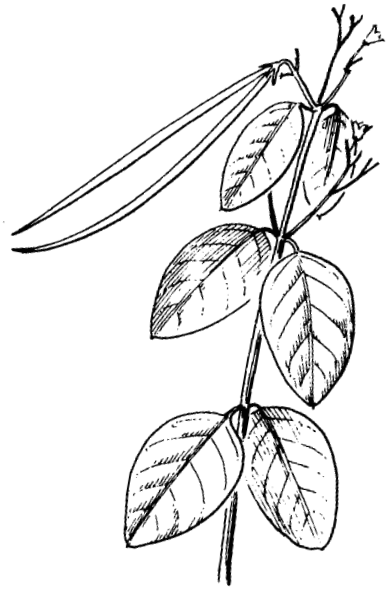
45A. Shrubs with **leaves** that are **attached** to the stems **opposite** each other: Go to 46A & 46B

45B. Shrubs with **leaves** that are **attached alternately** along the stems: Go to 50A & 50B



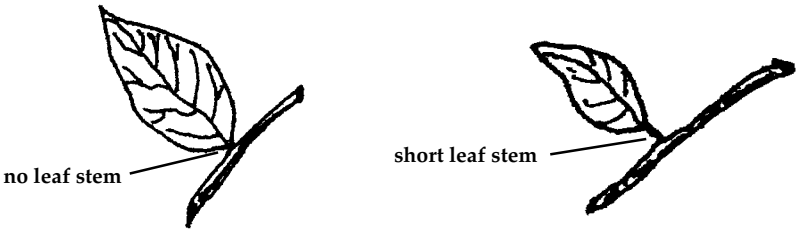
46A. Shrubs **without a milky sap**. Pull one leaf from the shrub to examine the sap: Go to 47A & 47B

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



Spreading Dogbane
(Apocynum androsaemilfolium)
These shrubs are poisonous, so do not eat any part of the plant.

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**

Red Osier Dogwood
(Cornus stolonifera)
The inner bark of these shrubs was used as a tobacco substitute by Native people and early settlers.

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**

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.

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**

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
(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.

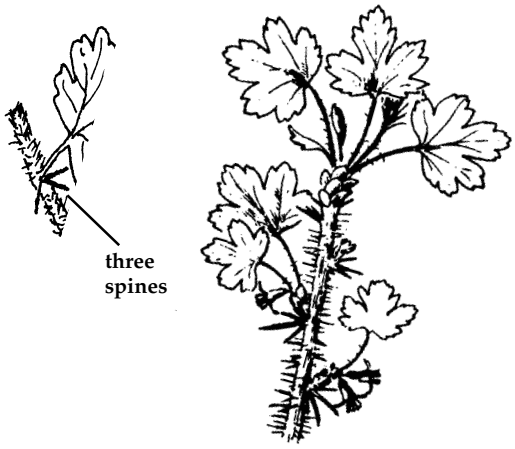
50A. Small shrubs **with wedge-shaped leaves**. **Leaves** are **green** and **shiny on both sides: Dwarf Bilberry**

Dwarf Bilberry
(Vaccinium caespitosum)
These small shrubs produce a delicious dark-blue fruit that bears and people like.

50B. Shrubs **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**

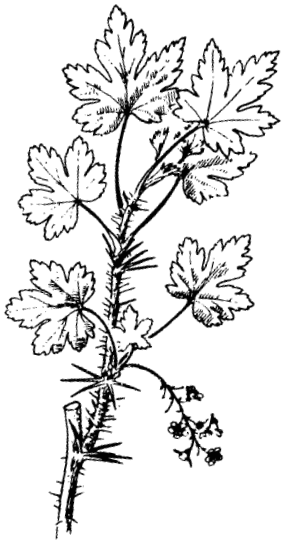
Willow
(Salix spp.)
There are over 30 different species of Willows making it difficult to identify any one species. Willow bark contains salicin, one of the drugs found in Aspirin and ASA. These plants are an important source of food for beaver, moose, and elk.

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 were 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
(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
(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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