

# Sample Leaves and Key Practice 2020 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>

## York County Envirothon

*Use sample key to practice identifying the forest species included in this packet.*

*Bonus Exercise: Find additional ways to identify trees besides leaves by looking at the pictures included in the packet.*

### **Sample Forest Species Key**

A **dichotomous key** is a tool for identifying plants or animals based on choices between alternative characteristics. Dichotomy is a distinct difference between two things.

#### How to use a dichotomous key:

- Choose one plant sample to identify.
- Read the two choices for #1. Choose which choice, A or B, is the most like your sample.
- Go to the number listed after your choice. Continue following the numbers of the key until you find the name of your sample.
- Write down the steps you choose as you go.

Example: 1A, 2A, 3B Flowering Dogwood

1A. The leaves are **deciduous**... Go to 2

1B. The leaves are **evergreen**... Go to 7

2A. The leaves and branches have an **opposite** branching  
pattern... Go to 3

2B. The leaves and branches have an **alternate** branching  
pattern... Go to 4

3A. The leaves are simple with **five lobes**... Sugar Maple

3B. The leaves are simple **without lobes**... Flowering Dogwood

4A. The leaves are **simple**... go to 5

4B. The leaves are **compound**... go to 6

5A. The leaves **have 4 lobes**... Tuliptree

5B. Some leaves have 3 lobes, some have 2 and some have  
none...Sassafras

5C. The leaves **do not have lobes & have a wavy margin**...  
Chestnut Oak

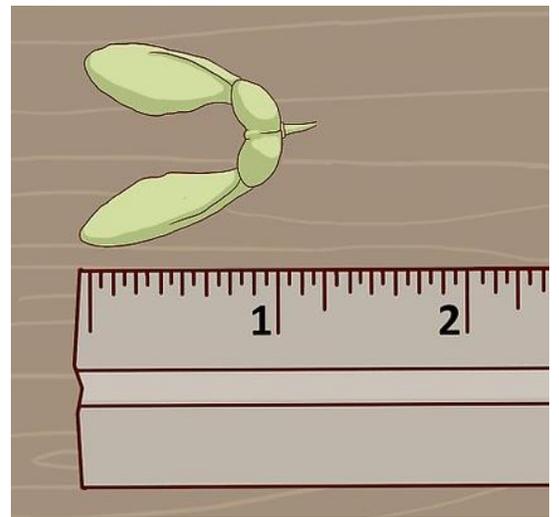
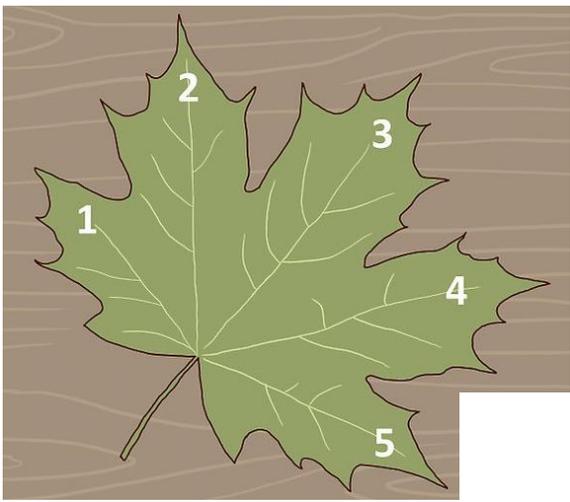
6A. The leaflets are **palmately** arranged... Virginia Creeper

6B. The leaflets are **pinnately** arranged... Hickory

7A. The **needle-like** leaves are short and single on the branch...  
Eastern Hemlock

7B. The leaves have two forms; **scale-like and needle-like**...  
Eastern Red Cedar

***Species G***

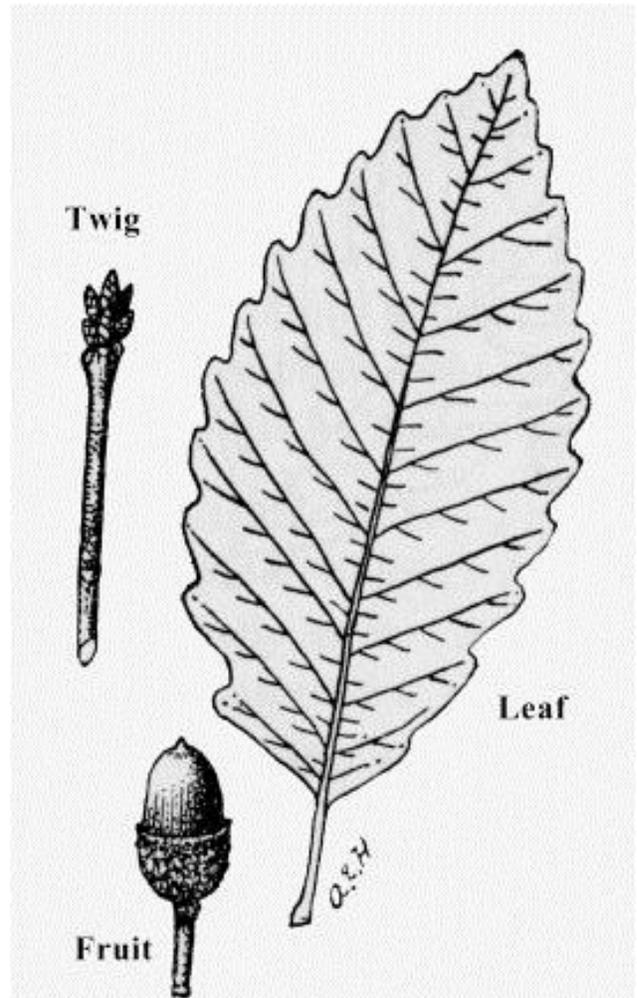


*Species H*





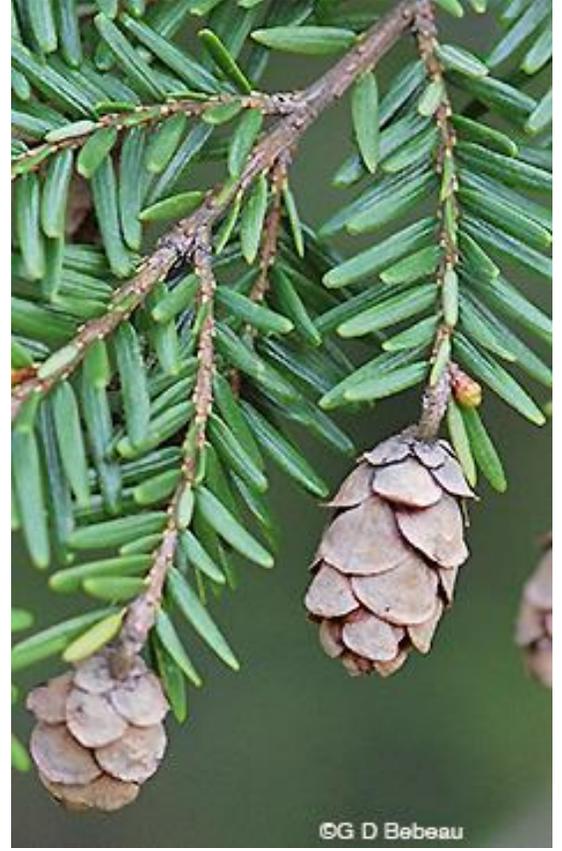
***Species 1***



# Species J



# Species K



***Species L***



*Species L*



# Species M



***Species M***



*Species N*

