**blackberry** Rosaceae *Rubus* spp.

**Leaf:** Alternate, pinnately compound (usually 3 leaflets), persistent (often barely); leaflets ovate, lobed and doubly serrate, 1 1/2 to 3 inches long, dark green above and paler below. Rachis and petiole armed with slender, easily detached prickles.

**Flower:** Mostly Dioecious; mostly imperfect, white to pink, 1 to 2 inches across, narrow petals, borne in clusters.

**Fruit:** Black aggregate of drupelets about 1/2 inch long, very edible.

**Twig:** Slender, round, and green to red, but covered with a white, waxy bloom, armed with slender straight or recurved prickles that detach easily.

**Bark:** Gray-brown, spines persisting for some time, largest trees become shallowly furrowed.

**Form:** A climbing or trailing evergreen shrub with round, slender branches that commonly reach 10 to 20 feet in length. Young stems are erect, but arch as they lengthen, rapidly touching the ground and rooting at the nodes.

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**devil's walkingstick** Araliaceae *Aralia spinosa*

**Leaf:** Alternate, bi- or tri-pinnately compound, up to 5 feet long; leaflets are 2 to 4 inches long, serrated margin; rachis has scattered prickles; green to blue-green above and paler below.

**Flower:** Monoecious; white and quite small, borne on 12 to 18 inch clusters at the ends of branches, appearing in late summer.

**Fruit:** A round, fleshy drupe, purple to black and 1/4 inch long; borne in quantity on pink-red clusters; maturing in late summer and early fall.

**Twig:** Very stout and spiny, gray to straw colored, with a slender U-shaped leaf scars that encircle 1/2 of the stem; buds are relatively small, ovoid and oppressed with very few scales.

**Bark:** Gray-brown, spines persisting for some time, largest trees become shallowly furrowed.

**Form:** A large shrub or small tree (up to 30 feet) with club-shaped branches; root sprouts and often forms thickets.

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**Notes:**
American hornbeam Betulaceae Carpinus caroliniana

Leaf: Alternate, simple, elliptical to ovate, 3 to 5 inches long, pinnately veined, tip acuminate, doubly serrate margin; waxy, smooth green above, paler below.

Flower: Monoecious; males a slender, yellow-green hanging catkin, 1 to 2 inches long; female catkins yellow-green and fuzzy appearing from new branch tips, 1/2 to 3/4 inch long, both appearing in mid to late spring.

Fruit: Small ribbed nutlet carried on a 3-lobed, slightly folded leafy bract that is 1 inch long (somewhat resembles a maple leaf), bracts are clustered on a long (4 to 6 inches) hanging stalk; ripen in late summer and fall, disperse through the winter.

Twig: Slender, somewhat zigzag, brown to gray in color; buds are brown, angled, with a tan silky edge to each scale (making the buds appear lined), approximately 1/4 inch or less in length.

Bark: Thin, smooth, gray to bluish gray regardless of age or size; trunk is fluted heavily, resulting in a muscular appearance.

Form: A small, nearly shrubby tree reaching up to 25 feet tall with a rounded crown and a twisted trunk.

Notes.

hop hornbeam Betulaceae Ostrya virginiana

Leaf: Alternate, simple, pinnately veined, oval to broadly lanceolate, 3 to 5 inches long, with a doubly serrate margin, green above, paler and fuzzy in the axis of veins and on the petiole.

Flower: Monoecious; males are preformed catkins, 1/2 to 1 inches long, in clusters of 3's (resemble birds toes), present throughout the winter; females appear in spring and are slender, light green catkins, 1/2 inch long, appearing or elongating (males) in spring.

Fruit: Very distinctive, resembling hops. More specifically, a 1/4 inch nutlet is enclosed in a dried, leafy, inflated sac. Several sacs hang from one stem, 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 inches long; maturing in late summer and persisting through winter.

Twig: Slender, reddish brown, smooth, and may be slightly pubescent. Male catkins present on the end of the branch; buds are small, plump ovate, and covered with green and red-brown, finely grooved (vertically) scales.

Bark: When young smooth, reddish brown, with horizontal lenticels (cherry like), later turning light brown and developing a shreedy appearance, broken into small plates or loose scales that are easily broken off with a brush of the hand.

Form: A small tree up to 40 feet tall that develops a round crown of fine branches.

Notes.
American holly *Aquifoliaceae* *Ilex opaca*

**Leaf:** Alternate, simple, evergreen, elliptical, 2 to 4 inches long, spiny toothed margin, thickened and leathery, shiny dark green above, much paler below.

**Flower:** Dioecious; dull green-white, male flowers on 3 to 7 flowered cymes, female flowers are solitary with a pleasant odor, appearing in late spring.

**Fruit:** Berry-like drupe, red, rarely yellow when ripe, 1/4 inch in diameter, containing ribbed nutlets; maturing in fall and persisting on tree into winter.

**Twig:** Slender, with rust-colored pubescence; buds small reddish brown, pointed.

**Bark:** Light gray and smooth regardless of size.

**Form:** A small tree to 40 feet, with a thick crown and pyramidal form, usually with branches to the ground.

Notes.

northern spicebush *Lauraceae* *Lindera benzoin*

**Leaf:** Alternate, simple, elliptical, 3 to 5 inches long, pinnately veined, entire margin that may be somewhat ciliate, strong, spicy odor when crushed, green above and slightly paler below.

**Flower:** Dioecious; small, but due to large numbers they can be showy, yellow, appearing in axillary clusters before the leaves in early spring.

**Fruit:** A bright red drupe when ripe (green before ripening), 3/8 inch long with a large seed and a peppery taste and scent, maturing in fall.

**Twig:** Slender, olive-green to brown in color, numerous light lenticels, with distinctive, stalked globose buds covered with 2 to 3 yellow-green to brown scales; when broken, a spicy, peppery smell is obvious.

**Bark:** Brown to gray-brown and speckled with light colored lenticels.

**Form:** A large shrub with several stems, usually rounded in outline up to 15 feet tall.

Notes.
bottomland post oak Fagaceae *Quercus similis*

**Leaf:** Alternate, simple, oblong, 6 to 10 inches long, with 5 lobes, the two middle lobes are distinctly square, resulting in an overall cruciform appearance, thickened texture; green above with scattered stellate pubescence, pubescent and paler below.

**Flower:** Monoecious; male flowers are yellow-green, borne in naked, hanging catkins, 2 to 4 inches long; female flowers are reddish and appear as single, short spikes from leaf axils, appearing with the leaves.

**Fruit:** Acorns are 1/2 to 2/3 inches long and ovoid; cap is bowl-shaped and warty/scaly, covering 1/3 to 1/2 of the nut; Individual scales are more apparent than white oak; maturing in one year and ripening in the fall.

**Twig:** Gray or tawny-tomentose and dotted with numerous lenticels; multiple terminal buds are short, blunt, orange-brown, somewhat pubescent, short, thread-like stipules may be present.

**Bark:** Ashy gray and initially quite scal, later becoming more blocky and ridged, very similar to white oak.

**Form:** A small to Medium sized tree up to 65 feet tall with a crown that has gnarled and twisted branches.

*Note: This is VT Fact Sheet for Q. stellata; species are very similar but for their site, and how cruciform the leaves often are

![Image](image1.png)

Notes.

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laurel oak Fagaceae *Quercus laurifolia*

**Leaf:** Alternate, simple, entire margins, occasionally with shallow lobes, widest near the middle, 3 to 5 inches long, 1 to 1 1/2 inches wide, thick and persistent, shiny above, pale and smooth below.

**Flower:** Male flowers are yellow-green long catkins (1 1/2 to 3 inches long), females are green to reddish, very small spike in leaf axils, appearing with the leaves.

**Fruit:** Acorn, 1/2 to 2/3 inch long, nearly round, dark brown and striated, cap is usually shallow but may cover up to 1/3 of acorn, cap has tight reddish brown scales.

**Twig:** Slender, light reddish brown, hairless, buds are sharp pointed reddish brown and clustered at twig ends.

**Bark:** Dark brown and initially smooth, it later develops shallow fissures with flat, rough ridges.

**Form:** Medium size tree to 60 feet, straight trunk, 1 to 3 feet in diameter, rounded crown.

![Image](image2.png)

Notes.
blackgum Cornaceae (Nyssaceae) *Nyssa sylvatica*

**Leaf:** Alternate, simple, pinnately veined, oblong to obovate in shape with an entire margin, 3 to 5 inches long, occasionally shallow lobes (or coarse teeth) near tip, dark green above and slightly paler below.

**Flower:** Species is usually dioecious; not showy, light green in color, in clusters hanging from slender stalks, appearing with the leaves.

**Fruit:** A dark, purplish blue drupe, 1/2 inch long, with a fleshy coating surrounding a ribbed pit, ripen in late summer and fall.

**Twig:** Moderately stout, red-brown to gray, diaphragmed pith; 1 to 2 inch curved spur shoots are often present; buds ovate, pointed, green and light brown, but darkening to brown in the winter.

**Bark:** Gray-brown and shallowly, irregularly furrowed, on old stems it can become quite blocky, resembling alligator hide.

**Form:** A medium sized tree reaching up to 80 feet tall on moist sites, generally much shorter in the mountains. On younger trees the branches often stand at right angles to the trunk with numerous short, curled spur shoots present.

Notes.

overcup oak Fagaceae *Quercus lyrata*

**Leaf:** Alternate, simple, 6 to 10 inches long, roughly oblong in shape with a highly variable margin that has 5 to 9 lobes with irregular sinuses. The underside is white and pubescent.

**Flower:** Male flowers are green, borne in naked catkins, 2 to 4 inches long. Female flowers are reddish and appear as single spikes, appearing with the leaves.

**Fruit:** Acorns are 1/2 to 1 inch long, round and almost entirely covered by the warty and unfringed cap, maturing in 1 year, ripening in fall.

**Twig:** Slender and gray, glabrous - very closely resembling white oak. Buds are small, ovoid and light chestnut brown in color; end buds are clustered.

**Bark:** Gray-brown and scaly, often with irregular plates, again resembling white oak.

**Form:** A medium sized tree with generally poor, twisted form. However, the crown is pyramidal/oval and later rounded.

Notes.
**Carolina ash** Oleaceae *Fraxinus caroliniana*

**Leaf:** Opposite, pinnately compound, 5 to 7 leaflets, leaflets 2 to 4 inches long with a usually serrated margin, leaf 5 to 10 inches long, dark green above, paler and smooth below.

**Flower:** Dioecious; in clusters, green to purple, appearing in spring.

**Fruit:** Broad-winged samara, 1 1/2 to 2 inches long, 1/2 to 3/4 inch wide, seed may be three-winged and the seed cavity is not distinct.

**Twig:** Moderate, smooth or may be somewhat fuzzy, gray-brown, opposite leaf scars oval with lateral bud only slightly set down into leaf scar.

**Bark:** Scaly, gray to slightly orange-brown, splotchy.

**Form:** Small tree up to 30 feet, 6 inches in diameter.

![Carolina Ash Images]

**Notes:**

**planertree** Ulmaceae *Planera aquatica*

**Leaf:** Alternate, simple, ovate, serrated margin, 1 to 3 inches long, 1/2 to 1 inch wide, dark green above, paler below.

**Flower:** Very small, with curling, fuzzy stigmas, appearing with leaves in early spring.

**Fruit:** Small drupe but very distinctive, 1/2 inch long, covered with warty to long projections.

**Twig:** Slender, slightly zigzag, initially hairy but becoming glabrous, reddish to gray-brown, lateral buds short, reddish brown, blunt tipped.

**Bark:** Scaly, shreddy, and patchy, grayish brown on the surface, more reddish where patches exfoliate.

**Form:** Small tree to 35 feet, often vase-shaped in appearance; flared, flattened roots often develop in wet areas.

![Planerta Images]

**Notes:**
swamp chestnut oak Fagaceae *Quercus michauxii*

**Leaf:** Alternate, simple, ovate, 4 to 8 inches long, 3 to 5 inches wide, margin with large round blunt teeth, dark green and shiny above, pale and downy below.

**Flower:** Monoecious; male flowers are yellow-green long catkins (2 to 4 inches long); females are green to reddish, very small in leaf axils, appearing in mid-spring with the leaves.

**Fruit:** Acorn, 1 to 1 1/2 inches long, chestnut brown, bowl-shaped cup covers about 1/3 of nut, cap is rough scaly, stalk is short.

**Twig:** Moderately stout, smooth or quite fuzzy, orangish brown, terminal bud 1/4 inch long, reddish brown, buds cluster near ends of twig.

**Bark:** Similar to white oak, ashy gray, scaly, with age developing irregular furrows and becoming darker.

**Form:** Well-formed tree becoming quite large (80 feet tall) with a narrow crown.

Notes.

American basswood Tiliaceae *Tilia americana*

**Leaf:** Alternate, simple, ovate to cordate, 5 to 6 inches long, with serrate margins, pinnately veined, base is unequally cordate, green above and paler below.

**Flower:** Monoecious; pale yellow, borne below a long, gracefully curving leafy wing in a many branched cluster, several inches long, appearing in early to mid-summer.

**Fruit:** A round, unripped nutlet (1/4 inch) that is covered with gray-brown hair; occur in a hanging cluster with a curving, leafy bract acting as wing on top of the cluster, ripening in the fall.

**Twig:** Moderately stout, zigzag, green (summer) or red (winter); terminal bud is false, each very plump with one side bulging out disproportionately. Buds are edible but very mucilaginous.

**Bark:** At first smooth and gray-green, later turning gray-brown and becoming ridged with long, shallow furrows and flat topped ridges. The bark is very fibrous.

**Form:** A medium sized tree to 80 feet. Older trees very often sprout from the base when cut. Stumps sprout prolifically, often resulting in clumps of several trees.

Carolina basswood Tiliaceae *Tilia americana var. caroliniana*

Very similar to American basswood EXCEPT: 1) Native in East Texas (more southern range generally), 2) a loose tomentum found on the back of the leaves, and 3) maximum height of approximately 50 feet.

Notes.
red mulberry Moraceae *Morus rubra*

**Leaf:** Alternate, simple, broadly ovate to roughly orbicular, 3 to 5 inches long, serrate margin, highly variable in that they may have no lobes or be highly dissected into lobes; green above with a rough scabrous texture, paler and fuzzy below.

**Flower:** Species is usually dioecious; small, pale green; male flowers are hanging catkins, 1 to 2 inches long; females are 1 inch long catkins, both appearing in late spring.

**Fruit:** Resembling blackberries, cylindrical, 1 to 1 1/4 inches long, fleshy multiples of drupes, each containing a small seed, maturing in summer.

**Twig:** Slender, zigzag, green changing to red-brown, sometimes pubescent; buds are covered with brown-marginated overlapping scales; leaf scars shield-shaped and somewhat sunken; silvery-white filaments present when broken.

**Bark:** Gray-brown and quite irregular with long, scaly ridges. Younger trees are often orangish, especially when wet.

**Form:** A small tree to 60 feet in height, with a short trunk that typically branches low.

Notes.