

# WINTER BOTANY ID CARDS

## THIRD INSTALLMENT ONLY

This deck only contains the cards for the last, green-flagged installment of trees in our DIY Winter Botany Course. However, just in case you want to use all the flagged trees as a self-quiz, the cards are NOT in the same order as the flagged trees.

Majority of the photos by Jerry Jenkins and ©  
the **Northern Forest Atlas Foundation**  
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Hawthorne Valley Farmscape Ecology Program  
([hvfarmscape.org](http://hvfarmscape.org))

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20. Willow



20.

## **Willows** *(Salix spp.)*

Habitat: Almost always near water.

Buds: Alternate; lateral buds appressed and resembling the toes of small bedroom slippers.

Bark: Grey; deeply marked with twisted ridges on older trees.

Leaves: Rot medium quickly; tend to be long and skinny.

Smell/Taste: Not marked.

Tree Size/Shape: Tree-sized specimens tend to be sprawling and multi-trunked; twigs often reddish or yellowish.

Other Tips: There are numerous bush-like willows in our area; Black Willow is our primary tree-sized willow.

## 21. Shagbark Hickory



21. **Shagbark Hickory**  
(*Carya ovata*)

Habitat: Often moister forests.

Buds: Alternate; large and bulbous with peeling bud scales.

Bark: Often flaking in large, prominent strips; can be easy to spot, but sometimes resembles old Sugar Maples.

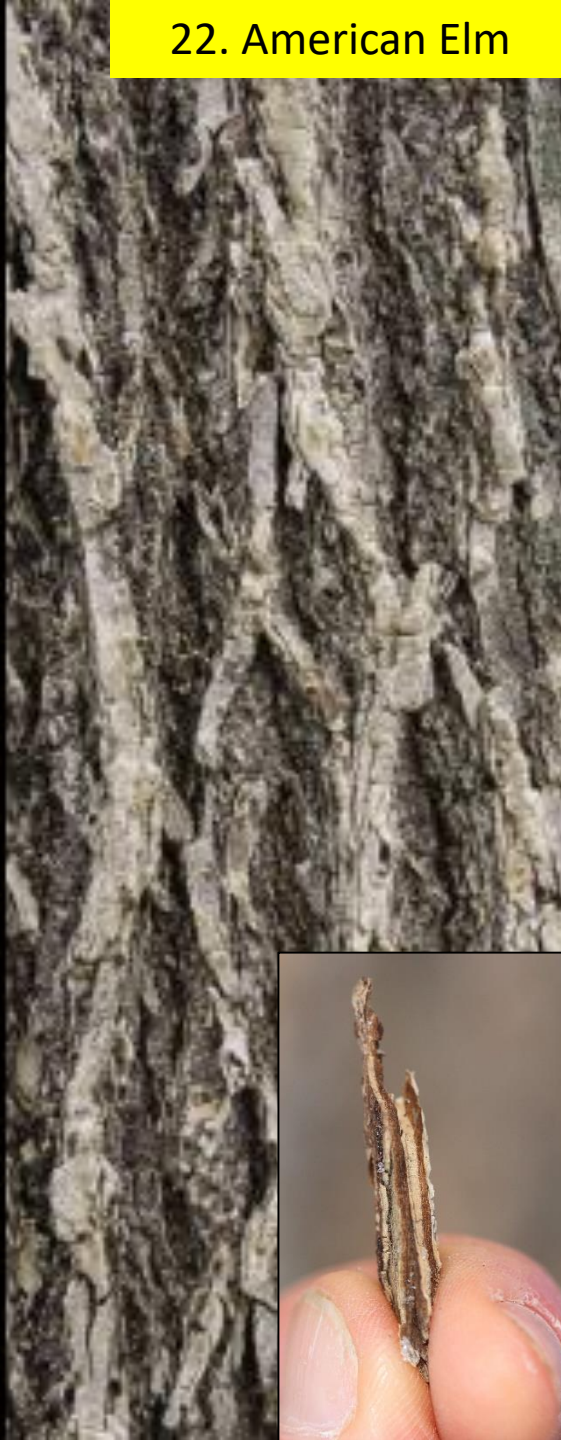
Leaves: A compound leaf, and the mid rib sometimes remains on the tree after the leaflets have fallen.

Smell/Taste: The green nut husks can be sweet.

Tree Size/Shape: Tend to be single-trunked.

Other Tips: Nuts have markedly thick husks, which are easily found during mast years and resemble little, thick-hulled boats.

## 22. American Elm



22.

# American Elm

## *(Ulmus americana)*

Habitat: Moister forest, tree lines, stream edges.

Buds: Alternate; bent end buds and crooked lateral buds; globular flower buds frequently evident in winter; compared to Slippery Elm, buds are relatively smooth and glabrous.

Bark: Ragged and ridged; when viewed in cross section, note 'Oreo Cookie' layering of light/dark/light.

Leaves: Often rough, coarsely toothed; fall completely, rot at medium speed.

Smell/Taste: Unlike Slippery Elm, twigs do not become slimy when chewed.

Tree Size/Shape: Vase-shaped when open grown.

Other Tips: Dutch Elm Disease has killed many, but can still often be found, especially along creeks; seed tip notched, unlike in Slippery Elm.

Photos by Northern Forest Atlas; <http://northernforestatlas.org>

23. Slippery Elm





23.

# Slippery Elm

(*Ulmus rubra*)

Habitat: Moister forest, stream edges.

Buds: Alternate; bent end buds and crooked lateral buds; globular flower buds frequently evident in winter; compared to American Elm buds, tend to have more brown fuzz.

Bark: Ragged and ridged; when viewed in cross section, note solid chocolate truffle with absence of distinct layers.

Leaves: Often rough (rougher than American?), coarsely toothed; fall completely, rot at medium speed.

Smell/Taste: Twigs become slimy when chewed.

Tree Size/Shape: Not distinctive.

Other Tips: Dutch Elm Disease has killed many, but can still often be found, especially along creeks; seed tip not notched, unlike in American Elm.

Photos by Northern Forest Atlas; <http://northernforestatlas.org>

## 24. Staghorn Sumach



24.

# Staghorn Sumach

*(Rhus typhina)*

Habitat: A native of dryish, disturbed habitats and edges.

Buds: Alternate; low, scurfy.

Bark: Grey, with warty, oval, horizontal lenticels; twig tips fuzzy, like a deer antler in velvet.

Leaves: Large and compound, drop relatively early.

Smell/Taste: Not marked.

Tree Size/Shape: Low, easily broken, sometimes straggling.

Other Tips: Look for the clusters of red, fuzzy fruits on female plants, these often persist well into Winter; sometimes used as spice or to make a kind of lemonade.

25. Witch-hazel



25.

## Witch-Hazel

(*Hamamelis virginiana*)

Habitat: Moderately rich woods.

Buds: Alternate and naked; on zig-zaggy twigs.

Bark: Grey and fairly smooth not distinctive.

Leaves: Drop and rot relatively quickly; unique coarse scalloping and asymmetric base.

Smell/Taste: Not marked.

Tree Size/Shape: An understory plant that often has a spreading form and multiple trunks.

Other Tips: Flowers late autumn; flower remains often seen in Winter; fruits are woody capsules whose husks sometimes also persist.

26. Grey Dogwood



26.

## **Grey Dogwood** (*Cornus racemosa*)

Habitat: Edges, hedgerows, and old fields; tend to be in relatively dry areas.

Buds: Opposite; naked, quite narrow; almost appear wizened.

Bark: Grey, tinged with red especially closer to twig tips, but entirely red as in Silky and Red Osier.

Leaves: Drop fully; have dogwood-typical veins which follow leaf edges.

Smell/Taste: Not marked.

Tree Size/Shape: Usually a relatively small, low bush; can grow in thick clones.

Other Tips: Fruits borne on dendrites at end of the twig tips, these structures are evident even after berries are gone.

27. European Buckthorn





27.

## **European Buckthorn** *(Rhamnus cathartica)*

Habitat: Non-native but widely naturalized along edges and in hedgerows.

Buds: BOTH opposite and alternate, unique amongst our woody plants in showing mix of bud configurations; buds dark, relatively small and tight.

Bark: Dark with lenticels; peeling and resembling Black Cherry on older specimens.

Leaves: Drop early.

Smell/Taste: Scratched twig with bitter green smell.

Tree Size/Shape: Spiny with thorns at branch tips and thorny tridents projecting from stems; large shrub, small tree.

Other Tips: Often grows in clumps around long-open farmland.

28. White Mulberry



28.

# White Mulberry (*Morus alba*)

Habitat: Fencerows, forest edges, and around farms.

Buds: Alternate; small, rounded and compact.

Bark: Grey, ridged with golden hue in 'valleys'.

Leaves: Dropping early; irregularly shaped with varying number of lobes.

Smell/Taste: Not distinctive.

Tree Size/Shape: Small, spreading tree

Other Tips: Not very distinctive, but location, golden hue on bark, and small, rounded buds should get you there.

29. Toringo  
Crabapple



29.

# Toringo Crabapple (*Malus sieboldii*)

Habitat: Non-native; old fields, forest edges, and hedgerows; apparently invasive.

Buds: Alternate; small, reddish pointed; often with evident spur shoots.

Bark: Greyish with warty horizontal lenticels, becoming flakey with age.

Leaves: Falling completely; oval, entire to multi-lobed.

Smell/Taste: Not distinctive.

Tree Size/Shape: Spreading fruit tree.

Other Tips: Multiple clusters of small, reddish crabapples is distinctive; these are often golden when fresh but seem to dry to an orangey-red.

***Please do not plant – can rapidly expand into open habitat.***

30. Multiflora Rose



30.

# Multiflora Rose

## *(Rosa multiflora)*

Habitat: Non-native; fencerows, old pastures, edges.

Buds: Alternate; small, reddish 'bumps'.

Bark: Can be greenish or reddish on younger stems; greying with age; prominent, wide-based thorns, often different color from stem.

Leaves: Mostly dropping early, pinnately compound with large, feathery stipules.

Smell/Taste: Not distinctive.

Tree Size/Shape: Sprawling shrub.

Other Tips: During the past decade, has been widely killed by Rose Rosette virus, which causes deformed, reddish growth.