Tree Identification Guide

This guide can be used for the OPAL Tree Health Survey and OPAL Air Survey.

- **Oak**
  - *Quercus* species
  - *Fagus sylvatica*

- **Ash**
  - *Fraxinus excelsior*

- **Horse chestnut**
  - *Aesculus hippocastanum*

- **Sycamore**
  - *Acer pseudoplatanus*

- **Maple**
  - *Acer species*

- **Hawthorn**
  - *Crataegus montana*

- **London Plane**
  - *Platanus × acerifolia*

- **Sweet chestnut**
  - *Castanea sativa*

- **Rowan**
  - *Sorbus aucuparia*

- **Elder**
  - *Sambucus nigra*

- **Beech**
  - *Fagus sylvatica*

- **Whitebeam**
  - *Sorbus aucuparia*

- **Cherry**
  - *Prunus species*

- **Willow**
  - *Salix species*

- **Hornbeam**
  - *Carpinus betulus*

- **Crab apple**
  - *Malus sylvestris*

- **Birch**
  - *Betula species*

- **Poplar**
  - *Populus species*

- **Hazel**
  - *Corylus avellana*

- **Lime**
  - *Tilia species*

- **Elm**
  - *Ulmus species*

- **Alder**
  - *Alnus species*
**Start here**

**Conifers**
If you have found a conifer, choose another tree for your OPAL survey.

**Horse chestnut**

**Sycamore**

**Hawthorn**

**Oak**

**London Plane**

**Elder**

Check: Elder leaves release a pungent smell when you rub them.

**Ash**
Check: Ash has black buds.

**Check:** Elder leaves release a pungent smell when you rub them.

**Rowan**
Check: Rowan never has black buds like Ash. Rowan leaflets are deeper toothed than Ash. Look out for red berries on Rowan in autumn.

**Elm**
Check: Elm leaves feel rough when rubbed between the fingers.

**Beech**
Check: Beech leaves are much lighter than others.

**Poplar**

**Hornbeam**

**Whitebeam**

**Crab apple**

**Alder**

**Willow**

**Cherry**
Check: Cherry leaves have a wide range of sizes.

**Elm**
Check: Elm leaves feel rough when rubbed between the fingers.

**Sweet chestnut**
Check: If there are 2 red spots at the top of the leaf stalk, it is probably a Cherry.

**Hornbeam**
Is the leaf at least twice as long as it is wide?

**Whitebeam**
Is the leaf undersides of the leaves rolled?

**Birch**
Check if you are looking at Birch not Alder. Alder has a rounded leaf tip, while Birch has a pointed leaf tip.

**Elm**
Is the leaf tip a distinct point?

**Beech**
Check: Beech leaves have a wavy edge.

**Birch**
Are there fine white hairs on the edge of the leaf?

**Elm**
Are there 2 red spots at the top of the leaf stalk?

**Sweet chestnut**
Check: If there are 2 red spots at the top of the leaf stalk, it is probably a Cherry.

**Hornbeam**
Is the leaf double-toothed? - large teeth with smaller teeth in between.

**Whitebeam**
Is the leaf tip a distinct point?

**Elm**
Is the leaf base asymmetrical?

**Beech**
Check: Beech leaves have a wavy edge.

**Birch**
Are there fine white hairs on the edge of the leaf?

**Elm**
Are there 2 red spots at the top of the leaf stalk?

**Sweet chestnut**
Check: If there are 2 red spots at the top of the leaf stalk, it is probably a Cherry.

**Hornbeam**
Is the leaf undersides of the leaves rolled?

**Whitebeam**
Is the leaf undersides of the leaves rolled?

**Birch**
Check if you are looking at Birch not Alder. Alder has a rounded leaf tip, while Birch has a pointed leaf tip.

**Elm**
Is the leaf tip a distinct point?

**Beech**
Check: Beech leaves have a wavy edge.

**Birch**
Are there fine white hairs on the edge of the leaf?

**Elm**
Are there 2 red spots at the top of the leaf stalk?

**Sweet chestnut**
Check: If there are 2 red spots at the top of the leaf stalk, it is probably a Cherry.

**Hornbeam**
Is the leaf double-toothed? - large teeth with smaller teeth in between.

**Whitebeam**
Is the leaf tip a distinct point?

**Elm**
Is the leaf base asymmetrical?

**Beech**
Check: Beech leaves have a wavy edge.

**Birch**
Are there fine white hairs on the edge of the leaf?

**Elm**
Are there 2 red spots at the top of the leaf stalk?

**Sweet chestnut**
Check: If there are 2 red spots at the top of the leaf stalk, it is probably a Cherry.
**Start here**

Does the tree have needles or scale-like leaves?

- No

- Yes

**Conifers**

If you have found a conifer, choose another tree for your OPAL survey.

**Horse chestnut**

Sycamore

Hawthorn

Oak

London Plane

Elder

Check: Elder leaves release a pungent smell when you rub them.

**Ash**

Check: Ash has black buds.

**Hornbeam**

Willow

Alder

Crab apple

**Sweet chestnut**

Check: If there are 2 red spots at the top of the leaf stalk, it is probably a Cherry.

**Cherry**

Check: Cherry leaves have a wide range of sizes.

**Elm**

Check: Elm leaves feel rough when rubbed between the fingers.

**Beech**

Check: Beech leaves have a waxy edge.

**Birch**

Check: You are looking at Birch not Alder. Alder has a rounded leaf tip, while Birch has a pointed leaf tip.

**Rowan**

Check: Rowan never has black buds like Ash. Rowan leaves are deeper toothed than Ash. Look out for red berries on Rowan in autumn.

**Hazel**

Check: Hazel leaves and leaf stems are hairy.

**Elm**

Check: Elm leaves feel rough when rubbed between the fingers.

**Lime**

Check: The leaf stalk bifurcated.

**Popular**

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