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# Bald Cypress



BALDCYPRESS

Very large deciduous conifer with soft feathery needles. The cones are about 1 inch in diameter and smell good.

The root system is odd as it grows large knobby structures called knees that protrude above the ground.

Bald Cypresses grow in swamps and wet areas but also do well on dry land. In fall the foliage turns fiery orange

before shedding for the winter. The lumber is very valuable. Note: A prehistoric Bald Cypress forest has recently been discovered in the Gulf of Mexico. Google

it!

# Catalpa



Usually does not grow straight. In Spring, there are big clusters of white flowers followed by long pods.

Sometimes beautiful chartreuse, black and velvety caterpillars appear on the leaves. Kids use to gather the caterpillars and sell them for spending money because they caterpillars make great fish bait.

# Chinquapin Oak

A medium sized tree with simple, alternate leaves. The acorn is  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches long and the cup covers half of it. It prefers dry, rocky soil with limestone. It's found in the eastern United States and is not real common in our area. Light colored bark and thinner leaves distinguish it from the similar Chestnut oak which grows at higher elevations.

# Cottonwood



Large tree that grows near streams and rivers. (Riparian is the term that defines riverbank trees.) Notice the leaf.

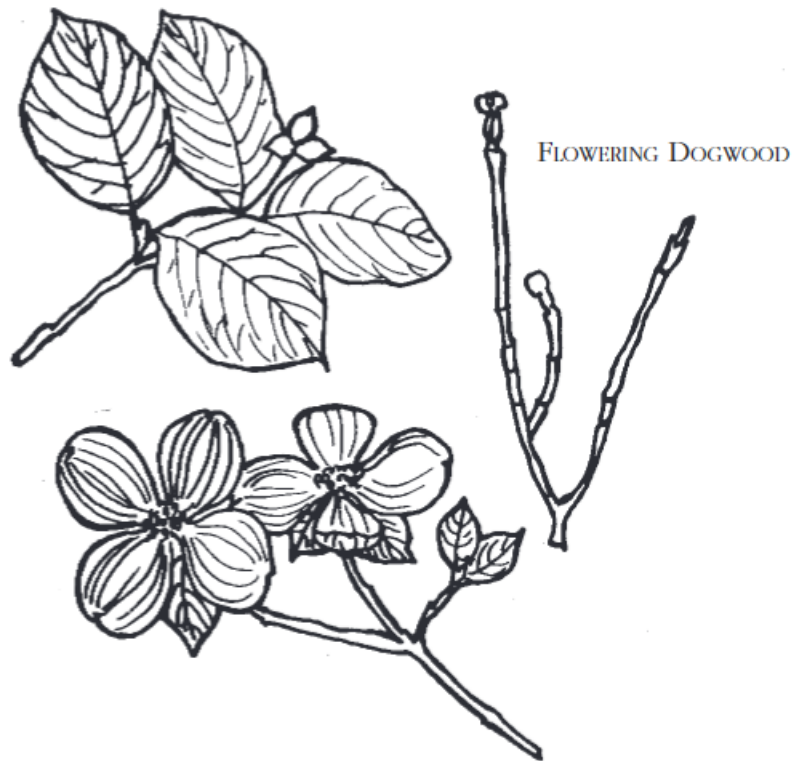
The edges are serrated or toothed. Also listen to the wind blow through the leaves. (Someone write a song about it.)

# Eastern Red Cedar



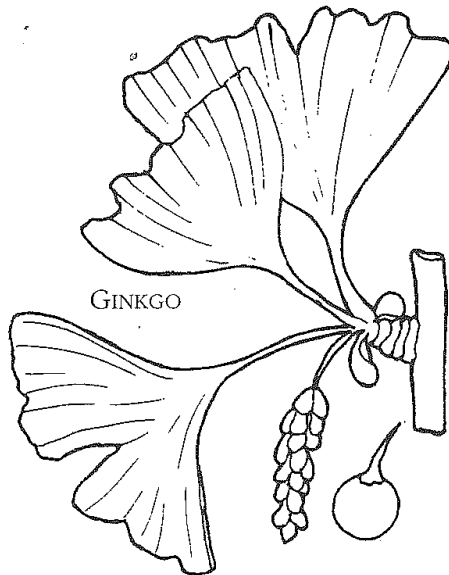
The bark is stripped off by many animals to make nests. This bark is soft and repels insects such as fleas. People use cedar to make moth-proof closets for winter clothes. The fruits are high in vitamins and are eaten by many birds, especially in late winter.

# Flowering Dogwood



This is not a very tall tree and has simple, opposite leaves. It blooms here in late March or early April. The white flowers are about 3 inches in diameter with 4 large petals. Leaves are colorful in the fall and seeds are bright red in small clusters. Birds love the bright red berries which serve as a high energy food to aid in migration to warmer climates before winter.

# Ginkgo



This is a small tree native to China. It is used as an ornamental for its historical value and for its spectacular yellow fall foliage. It is the only survivor of its ancient family, and ginkgo fossils date back 200 million years. The fan shaped leaves are very unique.

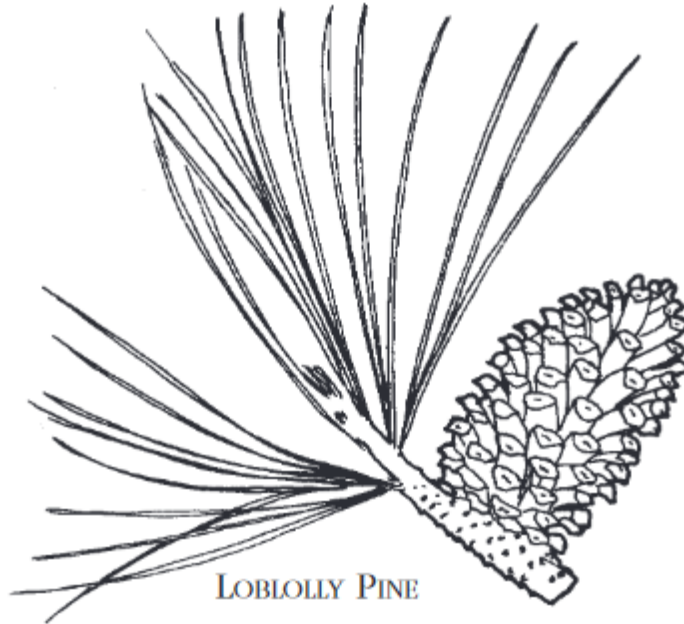


# Hackberry



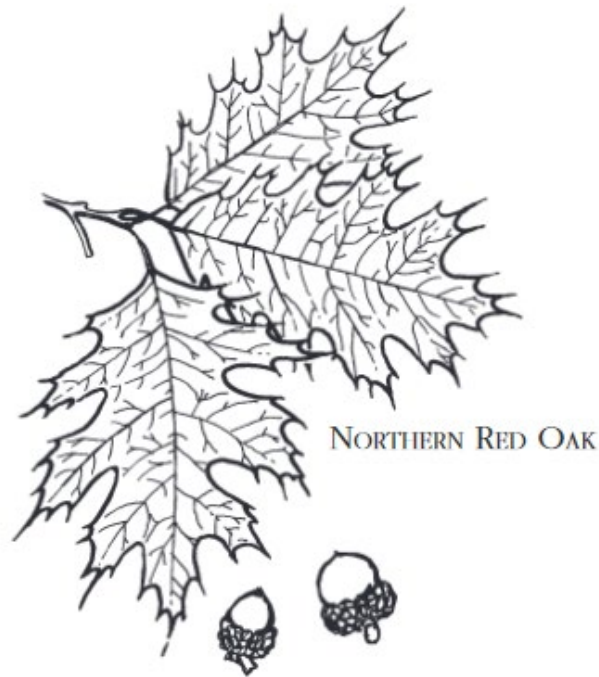
Very important tree for birds. They eat the tiny berries which usually stay on the tree all winter. This tree gets very large and is common along streams. Notice the bark. It looks like it has warts!

# Loblolly Pine



Popular timber tree. Paper is also a pine product. When the Pilgrims came to Massachusetts in 1620, the Native Americans were told to chew the pine inner bark to prevent scurvy, a nasty mouth disease caused by lack of Vitamin C. Squirrels eat the cones in the summer when nothing else is available.

# Northern Red Oak



Large tree used for furniture and building material. Note the leaves are broader than the Southern Red Oak but still pointed. The acorns are used by mammals and birds.

# Persimmon



COMMON PERSIMMON

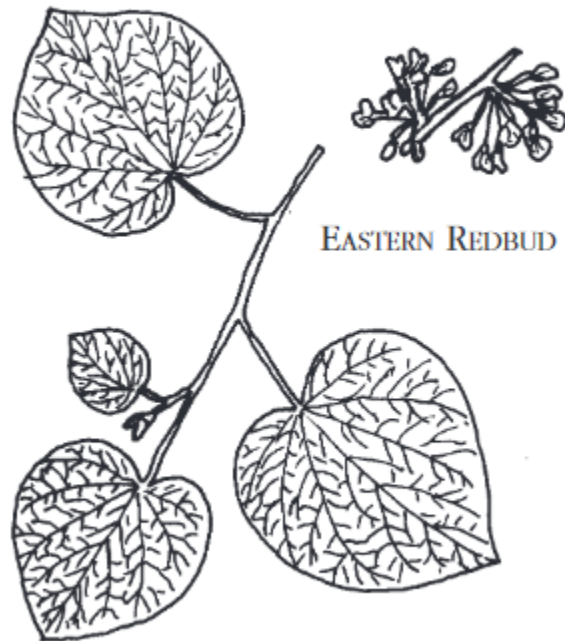
Look at the bark. It is deeply furrowed. If this tree has fruit, it is female. The fruit is delicious after it turns orange. If it is green, you need to wait. Lots of animals eat persimmons such as deer, fox, coyotes, raccoons, and opossums. Even Box Turtles enjoy this woodsy dessert.

# Red Maple



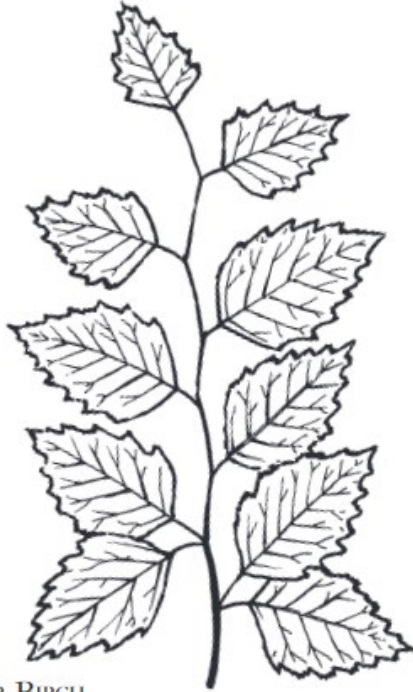
The key word here is RED. A medium sized tree that has bright, red blooms in late winter, followed by bright red seeds. When seeds fall, they twist in the wind because they have a wing. (Look for them on the ground.) The branch ends are red and the leaf stems are red. Also, the leaves have 3 points (R-E-D). The leaves may turn bright red in fall and are easily seen in their preferred habitat along streams and in boggy places.

# Redbud



These trees are members of the bean and pea family. Notice the seed pods and the heart-shaped leaves. This tree blooms in spring usually at the same time as the dogwood.

# River Birch



RIVER BIRCH

Notice the scruffy bark. Listen to the breeze blowing through the leaves. This tree grows along rivers and streams. Often used in landscaping.

# Shagbark Hickory



Look at the bark. You can see how it got its name. Large fruits are often used by humans. Hickory wood makes barbeque taste really good.



# Southern Red Oak



SOUTHERN RED OAK

A big sturdy tree. Furniture and lumber are made from the wood. The fruit (acorns) are very important for birds, squirrels, deer, chipmunks. Blue Jays and crows use the acorns also.

# Sweet Bay Magnolia



SWEET BAY

Not a big tree and not many grow in our county. However, a great many do grow in DeKalb County. The flower is much smaller than the Southern Magnolia. Note how the backs of the leaves are silvery.

# Sweet Gum



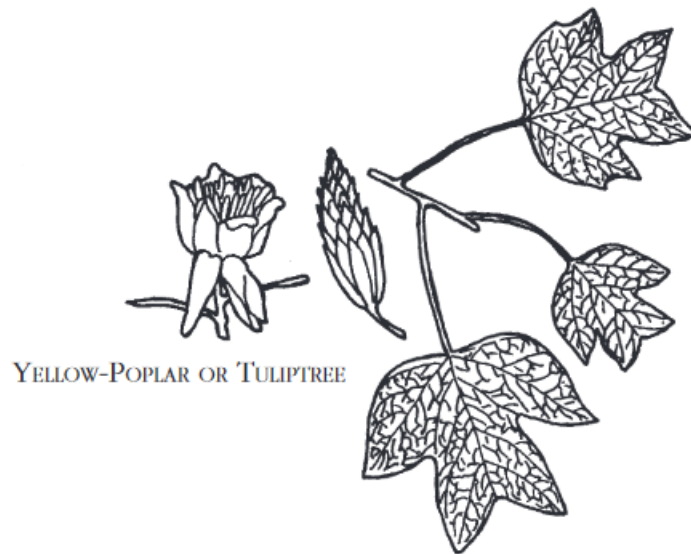
Large tree with distinctive leaves. Seed pods are round with tiny compartments filled with tiny, dark seeds. These seeds are used all winter by small birds like the Chickadee who have little sharp bills.

# Sycamore



Large tree with large tough leaves. Note the bark. Some is dark and peels off to reveal a white trunk. Native American mothers made their little children tiny baskets from the leaves. The baskets were just big enough to hold a few berries, nuts or even flowers.

# Tulip Poplar



Not a tulip! Not a poplar! It's a Magnolia!! Flowers are a food source for many birds migrating North in Spring. The nectar in the flower base attracts insects and birds. Some birds drink the nectar, and some birds eat the insects. You can taste it, too. Just don't eat an ant!

# Virginia Pine



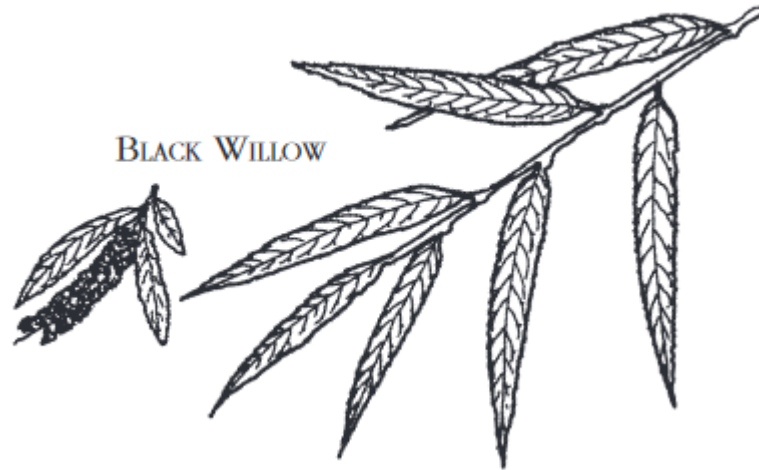
Note the short needles and small cones. The needles always come two to a bundle and are slightly twisted.

# Water Oak



Lots of animals depend on Water Oak. Deer, squirrels, flying squirrels, Blue Jays, Blackbirds and especially Wood Ducks like these acorns. This tall tree is common along streams all over Alabama.

# Weeping Willow



This tree has been used for centuries as a tree that looks pretty in a yard. It is native to Northern China and was traded along the Silk Road from China to Europe and to North America. One commercial use is known—the making of flutes.

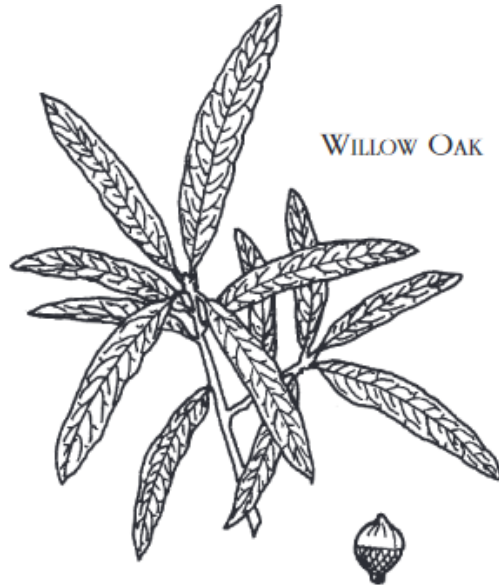


# White Oak



This is a very large oak with simple leaves and  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch acorns that are not liked much by deer. (They prefer Red Oak acorns.) This is a valuable lumber tree with uses for ship building, construction, furniture and barrels. The logs are used for head in fireplaces or outside campfires.

# Willow Oak



The leaves on this tree are different from most of the oaks. They are more like willow leaves. This tree has good acorns utilized by a lot of wildlife. Look up and see if this one has a squirrels nest.