

Dichotomous Winter Plant Key

Aspen

Smooth trunk
Shiny, pointed leaf buds

Willow

Smooth thin twigs
Small buds are covered by only one scale

Balsam Poplar

Young: smooth to lightly grooved bark
Mature: deeply grooved bark
Reddish-brown twigs
Large, sticky buds
Bud present on end of twig

Birch

Slender twigs are orange-brown with small white dots when young

Willow

Smooth thin twigs
No nutlets
Small buds

Alder

Nutlets present
Smooth twigs with many dots

White Spruce

New twigs are whitish and smooth
Elongated cones fall off each year

Tamarack

Looks like a dead Christmas tree
"Needles" are really leaves that fall off each autumn

Black Spruce

New twigs are reddish and fuzzy
Egg-shaped cones stay on tree in big clusters

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