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YOU DISCOVER TREES



Bur oak

A Mini Field Guide to 14 Terrific Trees

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FLOWERING DOGWOOD

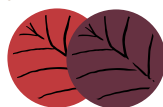


Habitat Prefers well-drained soils on wooded slopes, ridges, and field edges.

ID Clues Flowering dogwood is more of a shrub than a tree. In the spring, it unfurls beautiful, white, flower-like bracts. In the fall, it produces red, football-shaped berries.

That's Nuts! Flowering dogwood is Missouri's official state tree.

Fall Color



BLACK OAK



Habitat Found on rocky ridges, glades, and along the edges of woods.

ID Clues The inner bark is mustard-yellow to orange. Like all oaks in the "red oak group," this tree has leaves with pointy tips.

That's Nuts! Native Americans used black oak bark to make tea that they drank to cure everything from asthma to diarrhea.

Fall Color



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3

WHITE OAK



Habitat Prefers dry slopes but can be found in nearly any forest, woodland, or savanna statewide.

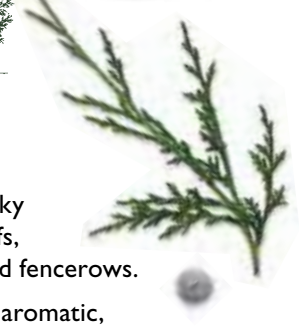
ID Clues The blocky bark becomes scaly on large limbs. In open areas, white oaks may grow wider than they are tall.

That's Nuts! White oaks are one of the longest living shade trees in Missouri. Some have lived over 450 years!

Fall Color



EASTERN RED CEDAR



Habitat Found nearly everywhere: open, rocky woods, glades and bluffs, pastures, roadsides, and fencerows.

ID Clues Cedars have aromatic, evergreen, needlelike leaves. They produce small, bluish-purple berries.

That's Nuts! Many trees are both male and female. Cedar trees usually have separate sexes. Male cedars produce tiny cones. Females produce berries.

Fall Color



SHAGBARK HICKORY



Habitat Found in bottomland forests along streams and upland forests on slopes and ridges.

ID Clues The long, shaggy strips of bark on this tree's trunk are a dead giveaway. Also look for tasty nuts that begin dropping from the tree in September.

That's Nuts! During summer, endangered bats raise their babies and sleep under this hickory's shaggy bark.

Fall Color



EASTERN REDBUD



Habitat Found in open woodlands, the edges of woods, and along rocky streams and bluffs.

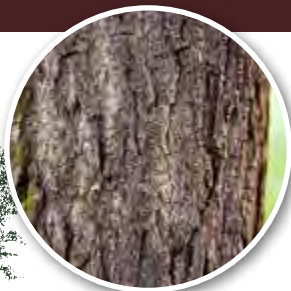
ID Clues The heart-shaped leaves are a good clue you've found a redbud. In the spring, redbuds produce colorful pink flowers. In the fall, they produce beanlike brown pods.

That's Nuts! Redbud flowers are edible. They have a sweet, nutty taste.

Fall Color



EASTERN COTTONWOOD



Habitat Occurs in damp lowlands near streams and rivers.

ID Clues In June, cottonwoods release tiny brown seeds that are attached to fluffy, cottonlike fibers. A large tree can produce 25 million seeds!

That's Nuts! Cottonwood is Missouri's fastest growing native tree. Under ideal conditions, it can reach a height of 50 feet in just six years.



Fall Color



12

BLACK WALNUT



Habitat Grows in damp woods at the foot of hills and bluffs, in valleys along streams, and in open woods.

ID Clues When crushed, the leaves release a distinct odor. Tennis-ball-sized nuts covered in thick green husks drop from the tree in September.

That's Nuts! Walnuts produce a poisonous chemical that prevents other plants from growing nearby.



Fall Color



5

AMERICAN ELM



Habitat Grows best in low, damp ground in valleys and along streams.

ID Clues Elms usually have a spreading, fan-shaped crown. The upper surfaces of their leaves are shinier than the undersides.

That's Nuts! American elms were once widely used as shade trees along city streets. Unfortunately, a disease wiped out thousands of the elms that were planted.



Fall Color



10

AMERICAN SYCAMORE



Habitat Found on floodplains (where they grow massive in rich soils), bottomland forests, and along rivers.

ID Clues The upper trunk and branches usually have smooth white bark. In the fall, sycamores produce brown seed-balls that remain on the tree over winter.

That's Nuts! About 98 percent of all great blue heron nests in Missouri are found in sycamore trees.



Fall Color



7

SILVER MAPLE



Habitat Found in bottomland forests, at the edges of streams, and planted around homes.

ID Clues Silver maples release “helicopter” seeds in late spring. The underside of each leaf is whitish-silver. When the leaves flutter in the wind, the tree looks silver.

That's Nuts! Silver maples grow quickly but tend to have weak branches that may break in wind, snow, or ice storms.

Fall Color



6

HACKBERRY



Habitat Grows in damp woodlands throughout Missouri.

ID Clues If you see a tree with a “warty” trunk, you’ve probably found a hackberry. Hackberries produce reddish-orange berries that turn purple and stay on the tree through winter.

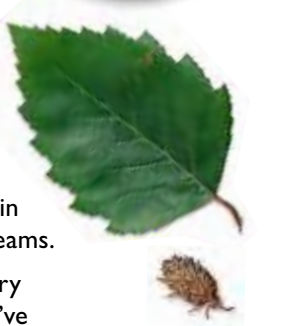
That's Nuts! Hackberry fruits are sweet and edible, perfect for munching on a fall hike. But be careful! Other plants have poisonous berries.

Fall Color



11

RIVER BIRCH



Habitat Usually found in damp ground along streams.

ID Clues Peeling, papery bark is a good clue you’ve found a river birch. The leaves are smooth and green on top and fuzzy and lighter (almost white) underneath.

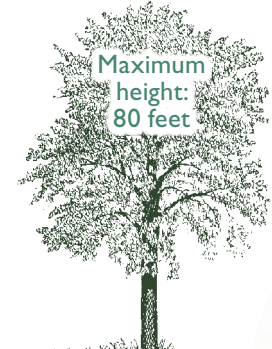
That's Nuts! River birches sprout quickly on bare stream banks. Their roots help hold the soil in place so it doesn’t wash away.

Fall Color



8

GREEN ASH



Habitat Occurs in bottomland forests along streams, sloughs, swamps, and ponds.

ID Clues Deep grooves in this tree’s bark form diamond patterns.

That's Nuts! Ash trees have historically been the preferred wood for making baseball bats.

Fall Color



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