

WILLOW OAK



VIRGINIA PINE



EASTERN COTTONWOOD



BLACKJACK OAK



WINGED ELM



WATER OAK



SILVER MAPLE



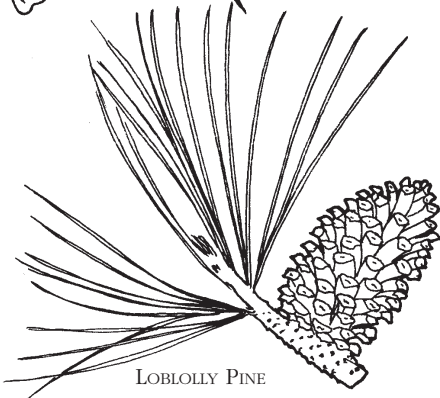
SHAGBARK  
HICKORY  
BITTERNUT HICKORY



**extension**  
ALABAMA A&M & AUBURN UNIVERSITIES

# A Key to Common Native Trees of Alabama

ANR-0509



LOBLOLLY PINE

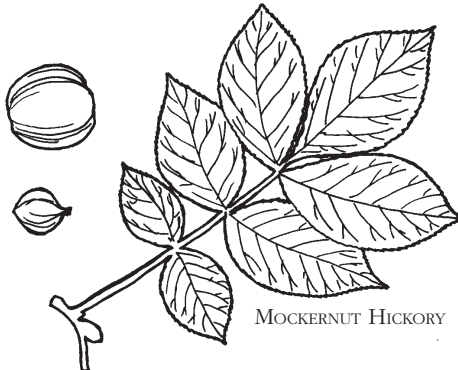


CUCUMBERTREE

SHORTLEAF PINE



COMMON PERSIMMON



MOCKERNUT HICKORY

# Common Native Trees of Alabama

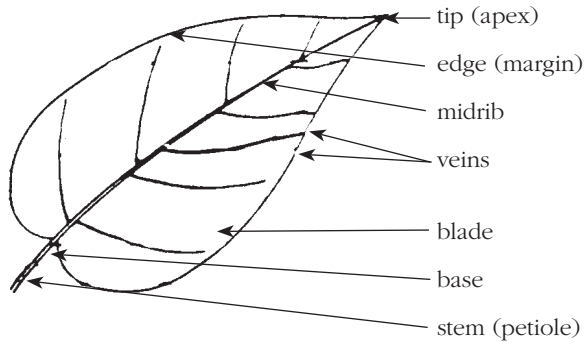
The following is a list of the trees included in the key. It is not a complete list of all trees found in the state. Trees are listed by preferred common name and scientific name (genus and species). Some trees are known by several different common names, but each has a unique scientific name. If you are not familiar with a common name used in this list or in the key, you may wish to find it in another reference by looking up the scientific name.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
Florida maple		shortleaf pine	<i>Pinus echinata</i>
or southern sugar maple	<i>Acer barbatum</i>	slash pine	<i>Pinus elliottii</i>
chalk maple	<i>Acer leucoderme</i>	spruce pine	<i>Pinus glabra</i>
boxelder	<i>Acer negundo</i>	longleaf pine	<i>Pinus palustris</i>
red maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	loblolly pine	<i>Pinus taeda</i>
silver maple	<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	Virginia pine	<i>Pinus virginiana</i>
buckeye	<i>Aesculus</i> spp.	sycamore	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>
river birch	<i>Betula nigra</i>	eastern cottonwood	<i>Populus deltoides</i>
American hornbeam,		black cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>
musclewood		white oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>
or blue beech	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	scarlet oak	<i>Quercus coccinea</i>
water hickory	<i>Carya aquatica</i>	southern red oak	<i>Quercus falcata</i>
bitternut hickory	<i>Carya cordiformis</i>	overcup oak	<i>Quercus lyrata</i>
pignut hickory	<i>Carya glabra</i>	blackjack oak	<i>Quercus marilandica</i>
pecan	<i>Carya illinoensis</i>	chestnut oak	<i>Quercus montana</i>
shagbark hickory	<i>Carya ovata</i>	water oak	<i>Quercus nigra</i>
mockernut hickory	<i>Carya tomentosa</i>	cherrybark oak	<i>Quercus pagoda</i>
southern catalpa	<i>Catalpa bignonioides</i>	willow oak	<i>Quercus pbellos</i>
sugarberry	<i>Celtis laevigata</i>	northern red oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>
eastern redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Shumard oak	<i>Quercus shumardii</i>
flowering dogwood	<i>Cornus florida</i>	post oak	<i>Quercus stellata</i>
common persimmon	<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	Nuttall oak,	
American beech	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	or Texas red oak	<i>Quercus texana</i>
white ash	<i>Fraxinus americana</i>	black oak	<i>Quercus velutina</i>
green ash	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	live oak	<i>Quercus virginiana</i>
honeylocust	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>	black locust	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>
American holly	<i>Ilex opaca</i>	sassafras	<i>Sassafras albidum</i>
black walnut	<i>Juglans nigra</i>	pond cypress	<i>Taxodium ascendens</i>
eastern redcedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	baldcypress	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>
sweetgum	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	basswood	<i>Tilia americana</i>
yellow-poplar or tuliptree		eastern hemlock	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>
or tulip-poplar	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	winged elm	<i>Ulmus alata</i>
cucumbertree	<i>Magnolia acuminata</i>	American elm	<i>Ulmus americana</i>
southern magnolia	<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	slippery elm	<i>Ulmus rubra</i>
bigleaf magnolia	<i>Magnolia macrophylla</i>		
sweetbay magnolia	<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>		
red mulberry	<i>Morus rubra</i>		
water tupelo	<i>Nyssa aquatica</i>		
black tupelo or blackgum	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>		
eastern hophornbeam	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>		
sourwood	<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>		

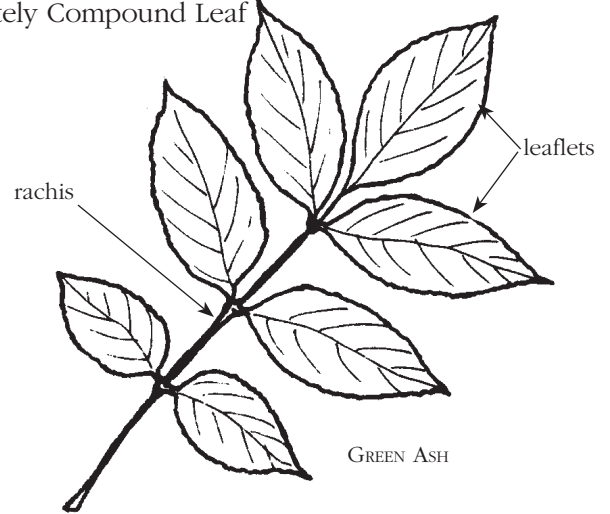
The tree identification key was adapted from *Guide To Southern Trees* by Ellwood S. Harrar and J. George Harrar; *Trees, Shrubs, & Woody Vines of East Texas* by Elray S. Nixon and Bruce L. Cunningham; *Forest Trees. A Guide to the Southeastern and Mid-Atlantic Regions of the United States* by Lisa J. Samuelson and Michael E. Hogan; and *Native Trees of the Southeast* by L. Katherine Kirkman, Claud L. Brown, and Donald J. Leopold.

# Leaf Types

## Simple Leaf



## Pinnately Compound Leaf



## Twice Pinnately Compound Leaf

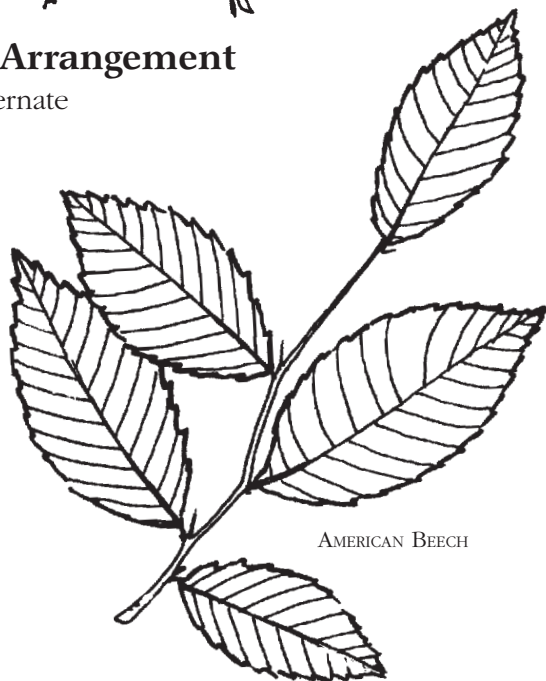


## Palmately Compound Leaf

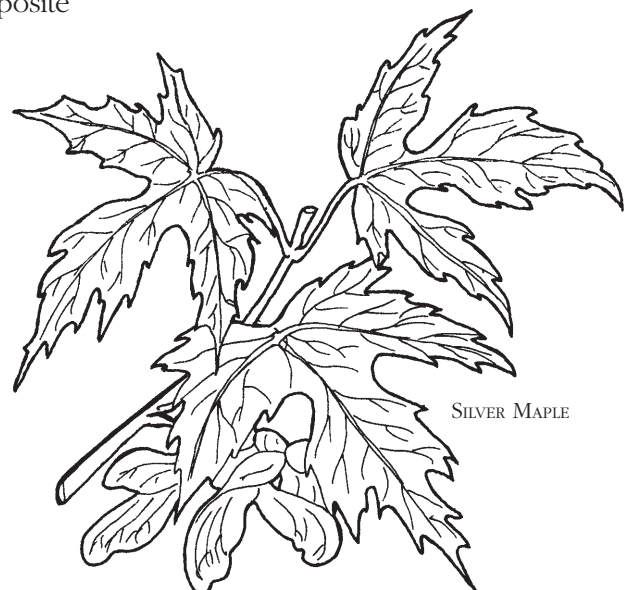


## Leaf Arrangement

### Alternate

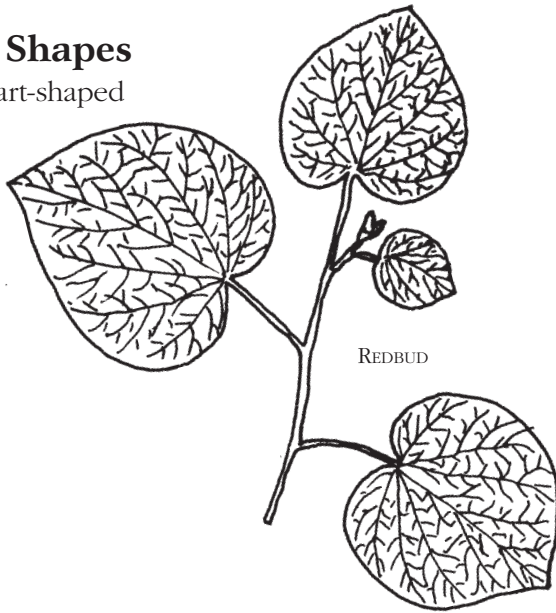


### Opposite



# Leaf Shapes

heart-shaped



linear



spatula-shaped



bell-shaped



cross-like

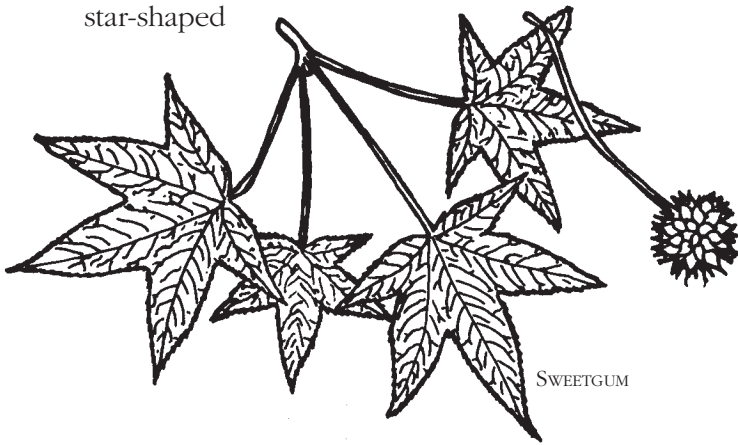


triangular



# Leaf Shapes continued

star-shaped



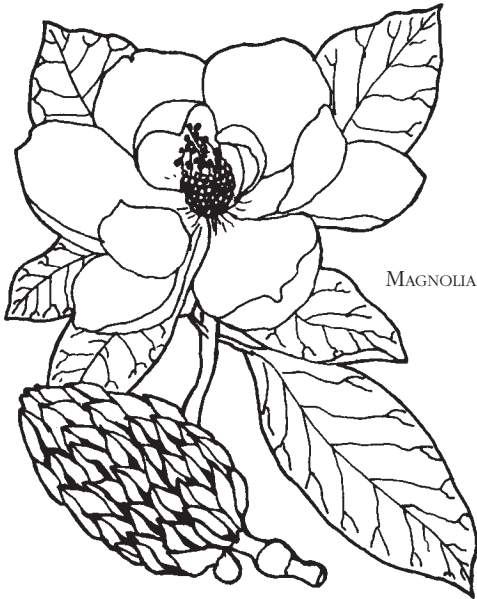
SWEETGUM

mitten-shaped



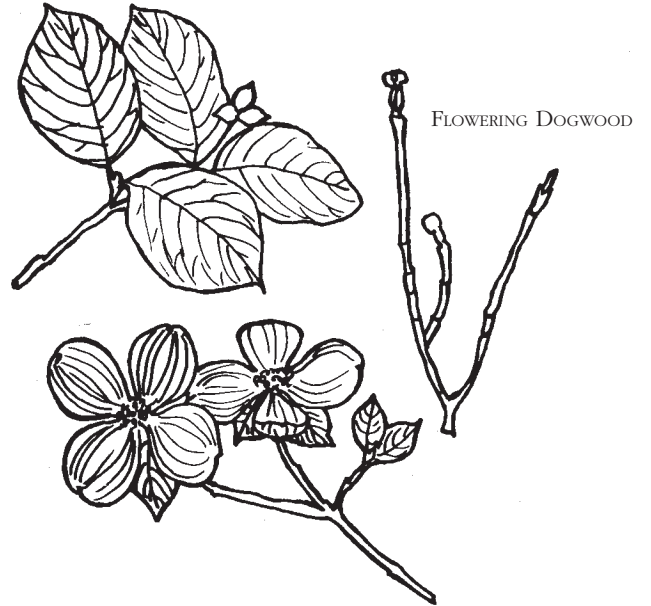
RED MULBERRY  
(NOT ALL LEAVES OF  
THE SPECIES ARE MIT-  
TEN-SHAPED)

oblong



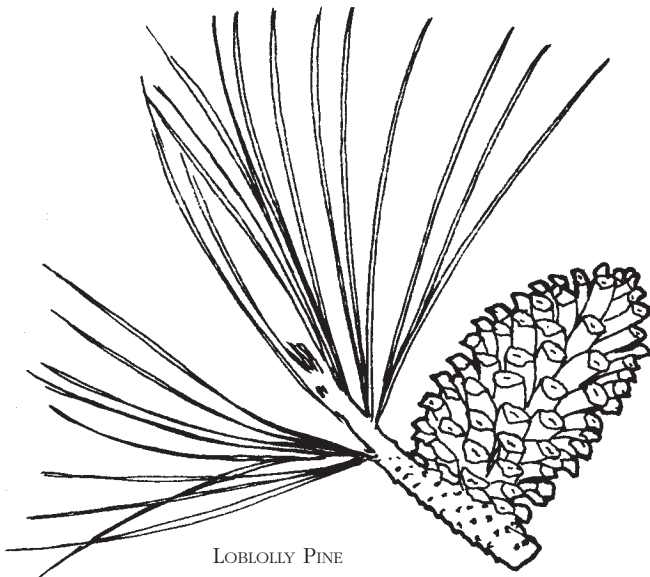
MAGNOLIA

oval



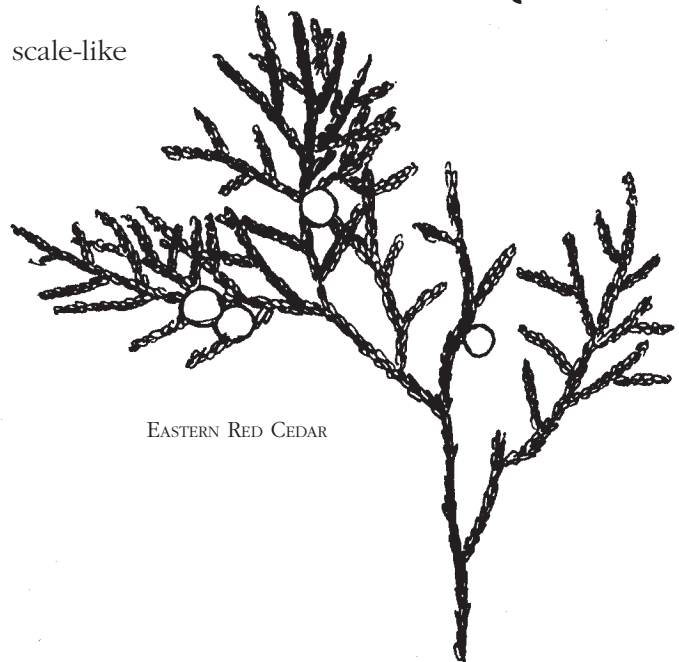
FLOWERING DOGWOOD

needle-like



LOBLOLLY PINE

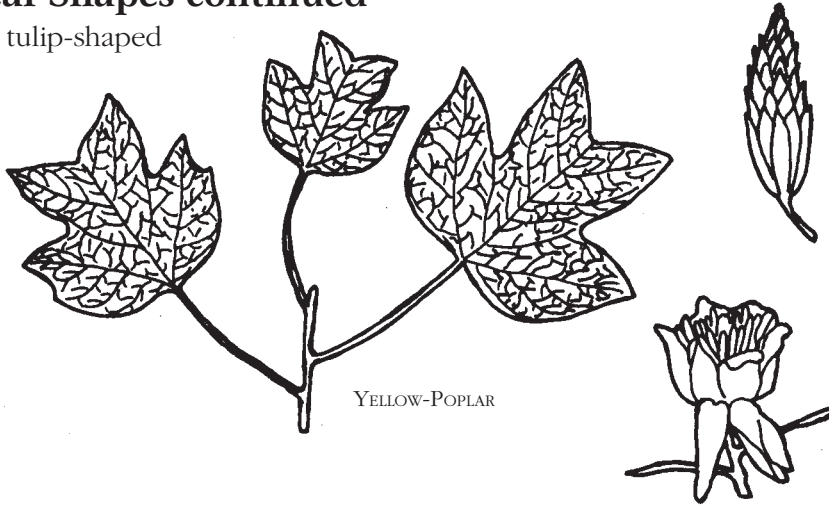
scale-like



EASTERN RED CEDAR

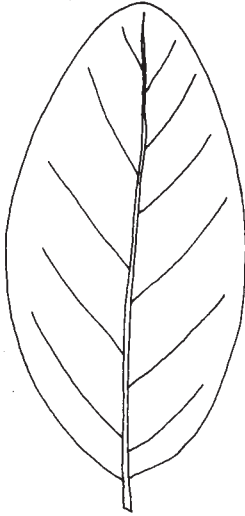
# Leaf Shapes continued

tulip-shaped

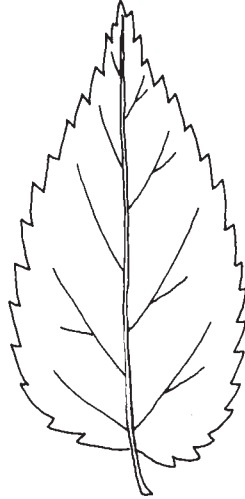


## Leaf Edges (Margins)

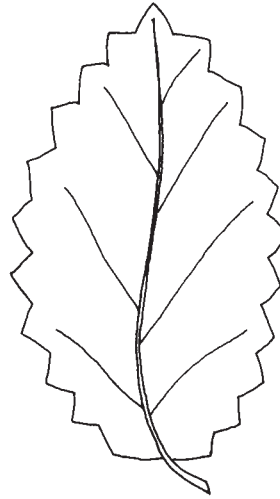
smooth (entire)



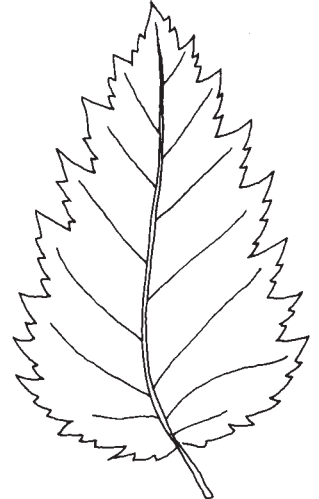
toothed (serrate)



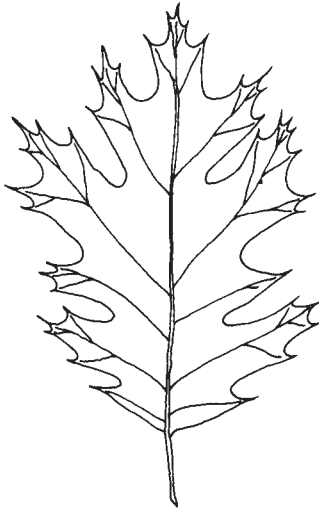
coarsely serrate



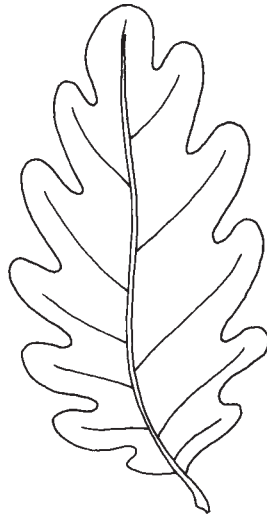
doubly serrate



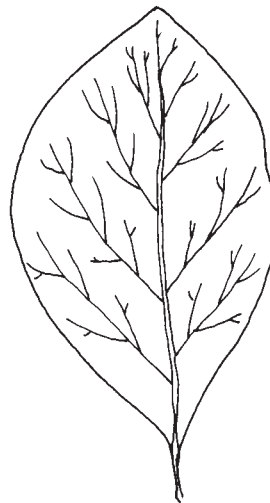
bristle-tipped

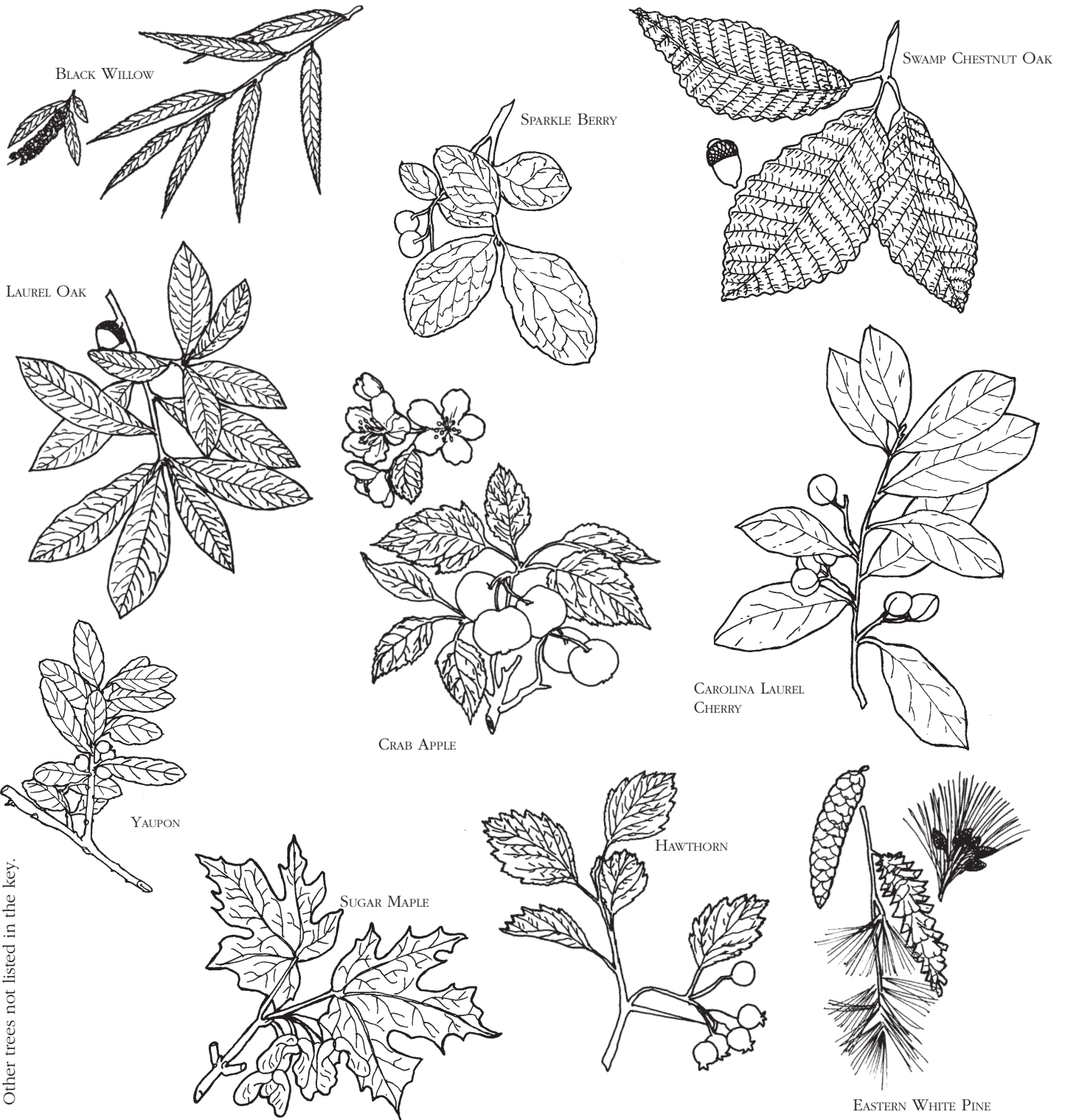


lobed



unlobed





Other trees not listed in the key.



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GREEN ASH



POST OAK



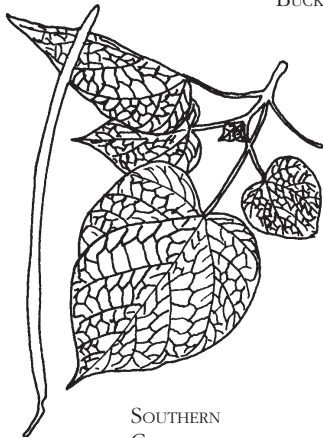
BLACK LOCUST



BUCKEYE (RED)



EASTERN HEMLOCK



SOUTHERN CATALPA

POND CYPRESS



BALDCYPRESS



BLACK OAK



SWEETGUM



HONEYLOCUST



CHERRYBARK OAK





SLIPPERY ELM



SOURWOOD



BOXELDER



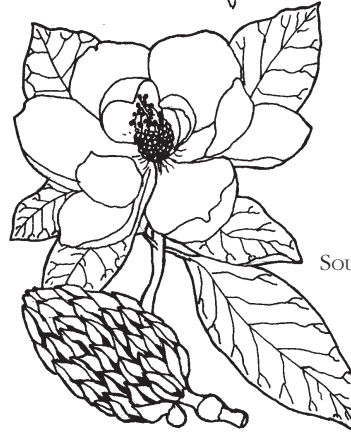
HACKBERRY



PECAN



BLACK CHERRY



SOUTHERN MAGNOLIA



PIGNOT HICKORY



NORTHERN RED OAK



LIVE OAK



WHITE ASH



AMERICAN BASSWOOD



BLACK TUPELO  
OR BLACKGUM



SASSAFRAS