

# Key to identifying deciduous trees and shrubs on Prince Edward Island

The form of a leaf is going to be either simple or compound. A simple leaf can be a smoothly-edged oval, but it might just as easily be lobed and/or toothed. What it does not have is leaflets, which would make it compound. A compound leaf has leaflets growing off a central leaf stem, such as a rose or a mountain ash.

The placement of leaves (or buds or branches), is going to be either opposite (across from each other) or alternate (not opposite from each other). There are no tricks, but don't get hung up if everything on a plant isn't one or the other – lots of insects and animals chew on buds, and occasionally things are opposite even on plants with alternate buds. Look for the overall pattern on the plant – if only 90% of the buds are opposite, the plant is still categorized as opposite.

So when identifying deciduous trees and shrubs in leaf, there are four possibilities:

## Simple and opposite

## Simple and alternate

## Compound and opposite

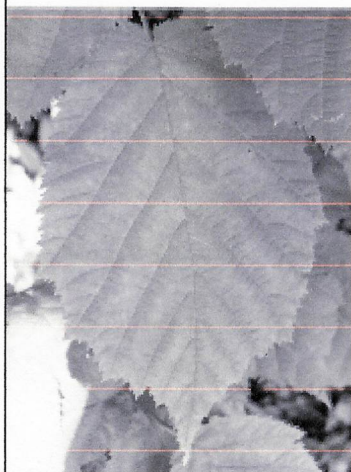
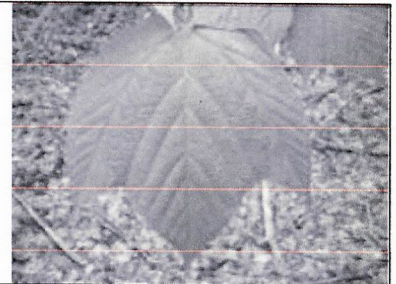
## Compound and alternate



### Simple and opposite

Red maple  
Sugar maple  
High-bush cranberry  
Wild raisin  
Round-leaf dogwood  
Mountain fly honeysuckle

Striped maple  
Mountain maple  
Hobblebush  
Red osier dogwood  
American fly honeysuckle



### Simple and alternate

Red oak  
Ironwood  
White birch  
Bog birch  
Trembling aspen  
Alternate-leaf dogwood  
Serviceberry  
Choke cherry  
Rhodora  
Witch hazel  
Bayberry  
False holly  
Labrador tea

American elm  
Yellow birch  
Grey birch  
American beech  
Large-toothed aspen  
Willow  
Speckled and downy alder  
Pin cherry  
Red and black chokeberry  
Beaked hazelnut  
Winterberry holly  
Sweetfern  
Hawthorn      Sheep laurel



### Compound and opposite

White ash  
Black ash  
Common elder  
Red-berried elder



### Compound and alternate

Butternut  
Staghorn sumac  
Wild roses  
American mountain ash

