

## **Tree & Shrub Identification**

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Woody plant identification takes a long time to master. We will identify a number of common Kansas species, and you can learn **how to** identify trees, by noticing branching structure, leaf shapes, bark, and fruit characteristics. Ranges and habitats in Kansas will be discussed.

### **M.A.D. CAP HORSE - trees with opposite branching.**

M- maple, A- ash, D- dogwood, CAP- Caprifoliaceae (honeysuckle), HORSE horse-chestnut (buckeye).

Listed below are several useful references so that you can learn to key out and identify trees and shrubs.

### **WEB SITES**

#### **Dendrology at Virginia Tech**

A dendrology (ID) homepage at Virginia Tech, includes factsheets on over 975 species of trees, as well as an on-line key that can be used for identifying a specimen. Many shrubs also included. Great photos. Also an app for your smartphone, using GPS.

Go to:

[dendro.cnre.vt.edu](http://dendro.cnre.vt.edu)

#### **Plant Dictionary**

This wide-ranging resource from Ohio State University has information on pests and diseases, as well as the history and biology of horticultural plants. Also provides information on flowers, fruits and vegetables. You can search for a plant by name or category. Unfortunately, no key is available, but the photos are excellent.

Go to:

[plantfacts.osu.edu/images.lasso](http://plantfacts.osu.edu/images.lasso)

Click on "Ornamental Plants", then enter the name in the search form. For example, enter "oak", and select the "tree" search button, will bring up a page of 15 common oak species.

### **IDENTIFICATION BOOKS**

Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Vines in Kansas. H.A. Stephens, 1969. University Press of Kansas, Lawrence. \$13.95.

Tree Finder- Leaves. May T. Watts, 1991. A nice little pocket guide for just \$3! A winter twig version is \$5.95.

The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Trees Eastern Region. E.L. Little, 1980. \$17.00. Excellent color photos of leaves, flowers and fruit, for native trees only.

Native Trees of the Midwest: Identification, Wildlife Values, and Landscaping Use. Sally Weeks et al. 2005. Purdue University Press. \$46 used. Hardcover. 300pp.