

# Leaf Types

Be aware that variation exists among cultivars and individual plants within the same species.



### **lanceolate**

length greater than width, broadest at the base, narrowing to the apex, lance-shaped

[Fraxinus pennsylvanica](#)



### **ovate**

more or less rounded at both ends and broadest below the middle, egg-shaped

[Cornus florida](#)



### **elliptical**

ellipse-shaped, narrow at each end, widest at the middle

[Cotoneaster dammeri](#)



### **cordate**

more or less rounded at both ends and broadest below the middle, egg-shaped

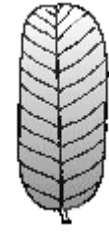
[Cercis canadensis](#)



### **elliptical**

ellipse-shaped, narrow at each end, widest at the middle

[Nyssa sylvatica](#)



### **oblong**

longer than wide, sides parallel, rectangular with rounded corners



### **linear**

parallel sides, long and very narrow

[Hemerocallis](#)



### **auriculate**

having auricle(s) -- ear-shaped lobe(s) at the base of leaves or petals

**Arabis caucasica**



### **obovate**

inversely ovate, broader above the middle than below

[Myrica pennsylvanica](#)



### **oblanceolate**

inversely lanceolate, broader above the middle and tapering to the base

[Ilex glabra](#)



**spatulate**  
oblong with the basal end narrowed and the apical end rounded, spoon-shaped  
[Myrica pennsylvanica](#)



**needle**  
slender leaf of many conifers  
[Pinus sylvestris](#)



**palmately lobed**  
three or more lobes radiating fan-like from a common base  
**Acer saccharum**



**pinnately lobed**  
segments or lobes along each side of a common axis  
[Quercus palustris](#)



**scale-like**  
small appressed leaf or bract  
[Juniperus](#)



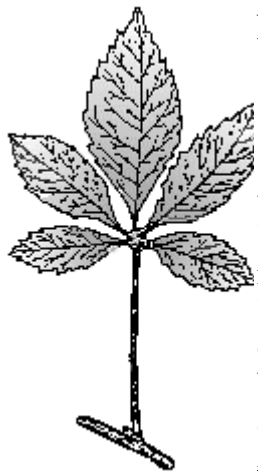
**awl-like**  
tapering from the base to a sharp point  
[Juniperus](#)



simple  
not  
compound,  
not divided  
into  
secondary  
units  
[Cercis  
canadensis](#)



pinnately  
compound  
d  
compound  
leaf with the  
leaflets  
arranged on  
both sides of  
the rachis or  
axis  
[Fraxinus  
americana](#)



palmately  
compound  
d  
three or more  
leaflets  
radiating fan-  
like from a  
common  
basal point of  
attachment  
[Aesculus  
hipocastanum](#)



bipinnately  
compound  
twice pinnate,  
the primary  
leaflets are  
divided into  
secondary  
leaflets, also  
written 2-  
pinnate  
[Gleditsia  
triacanthos](#)