

Quick and Dirty Ohio Tree ID

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THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
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Tree ID Basics

- Deciduous vs Conifer
- Branching Patterns
 - Opposite
 - Alternate
 - Whorled
- Leaf Types
 - Simple
 - Pinnately compound
 - Palmately compound
 - Bi-pinnately compound
- Key characteristics



Deciduous vs Conifer



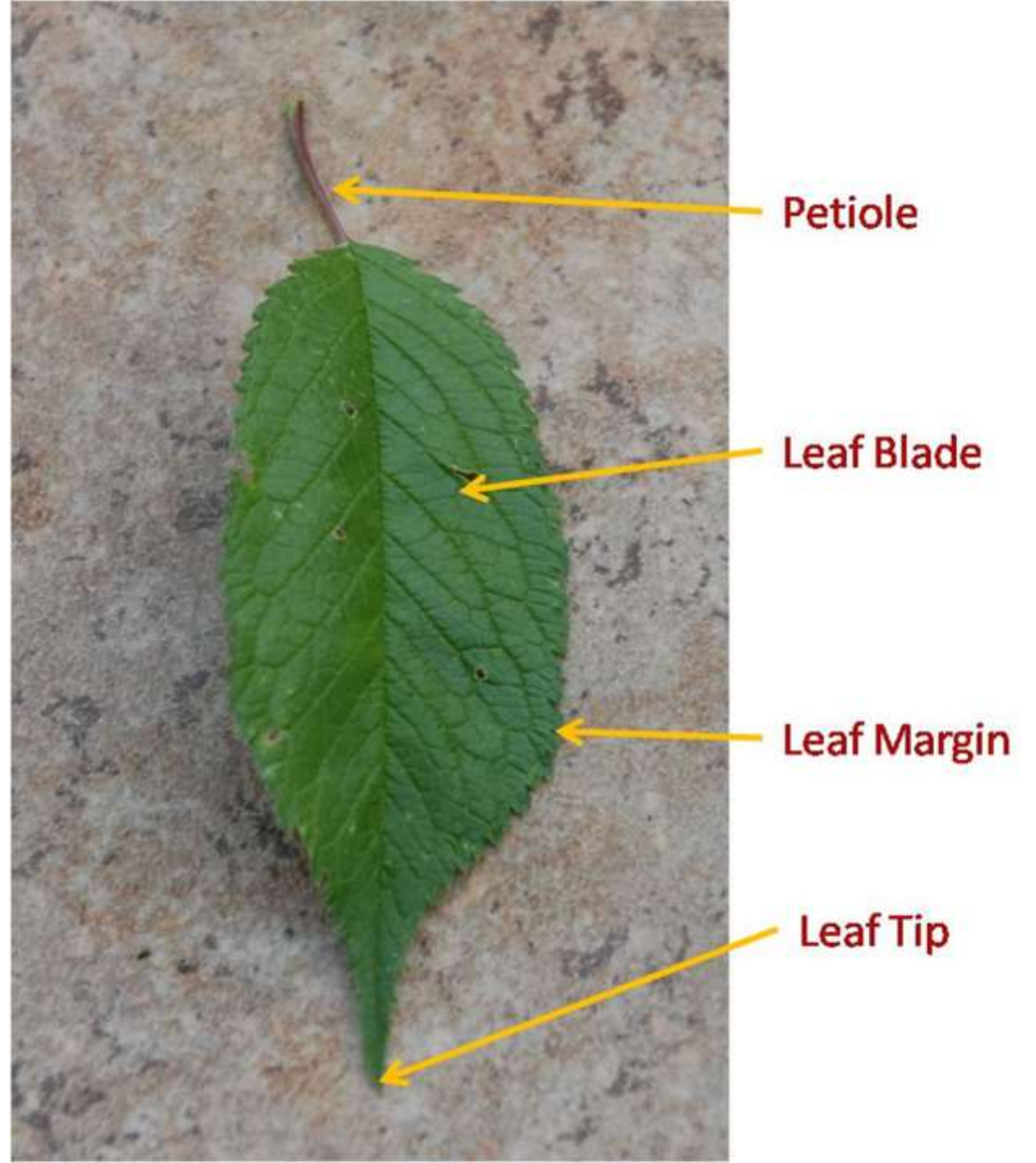
What is a leaf?



Leaf Shapes

Simple Leaf

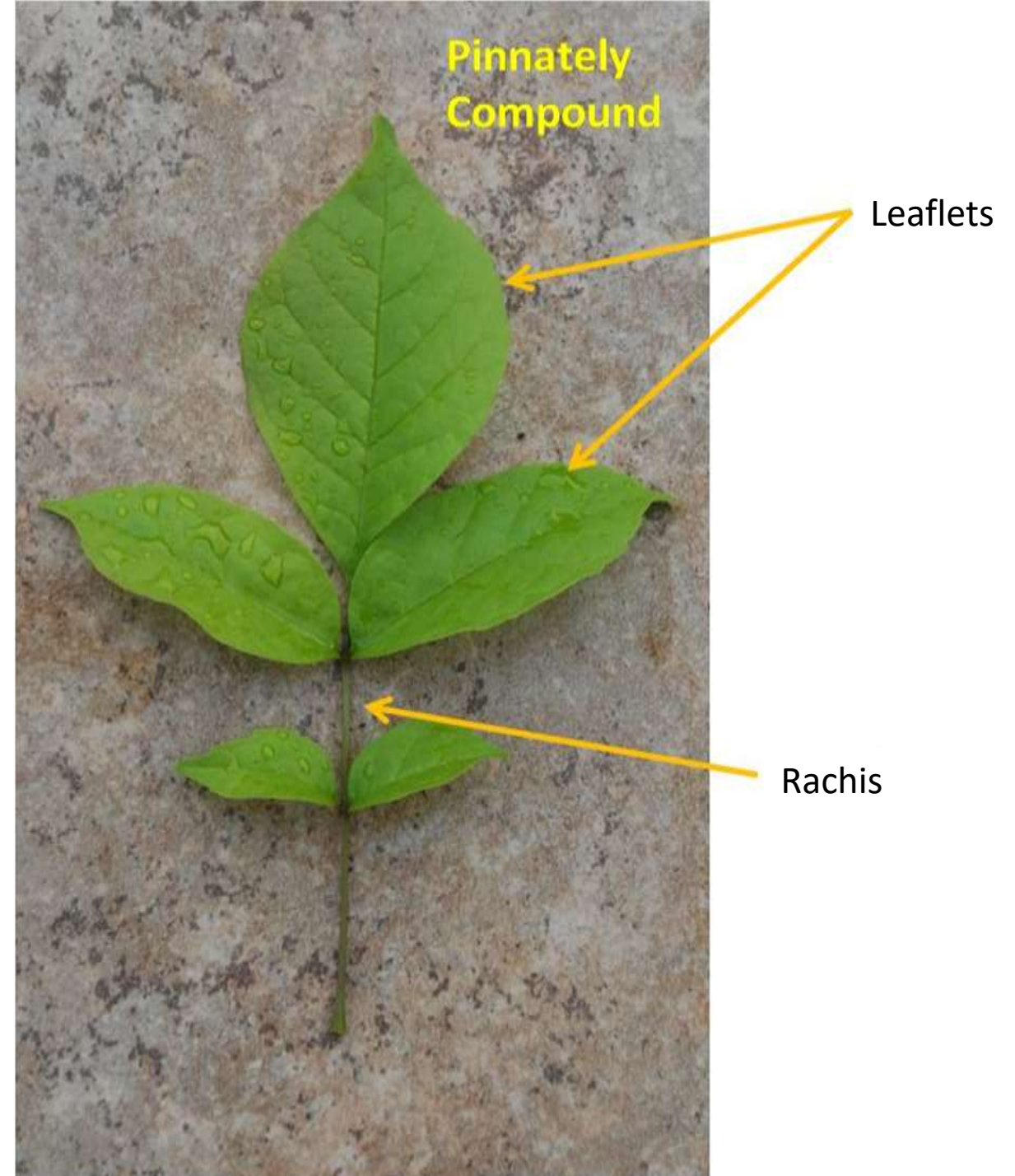
- single leaf blade



Leaf Shapes

Pinnately compound leaf

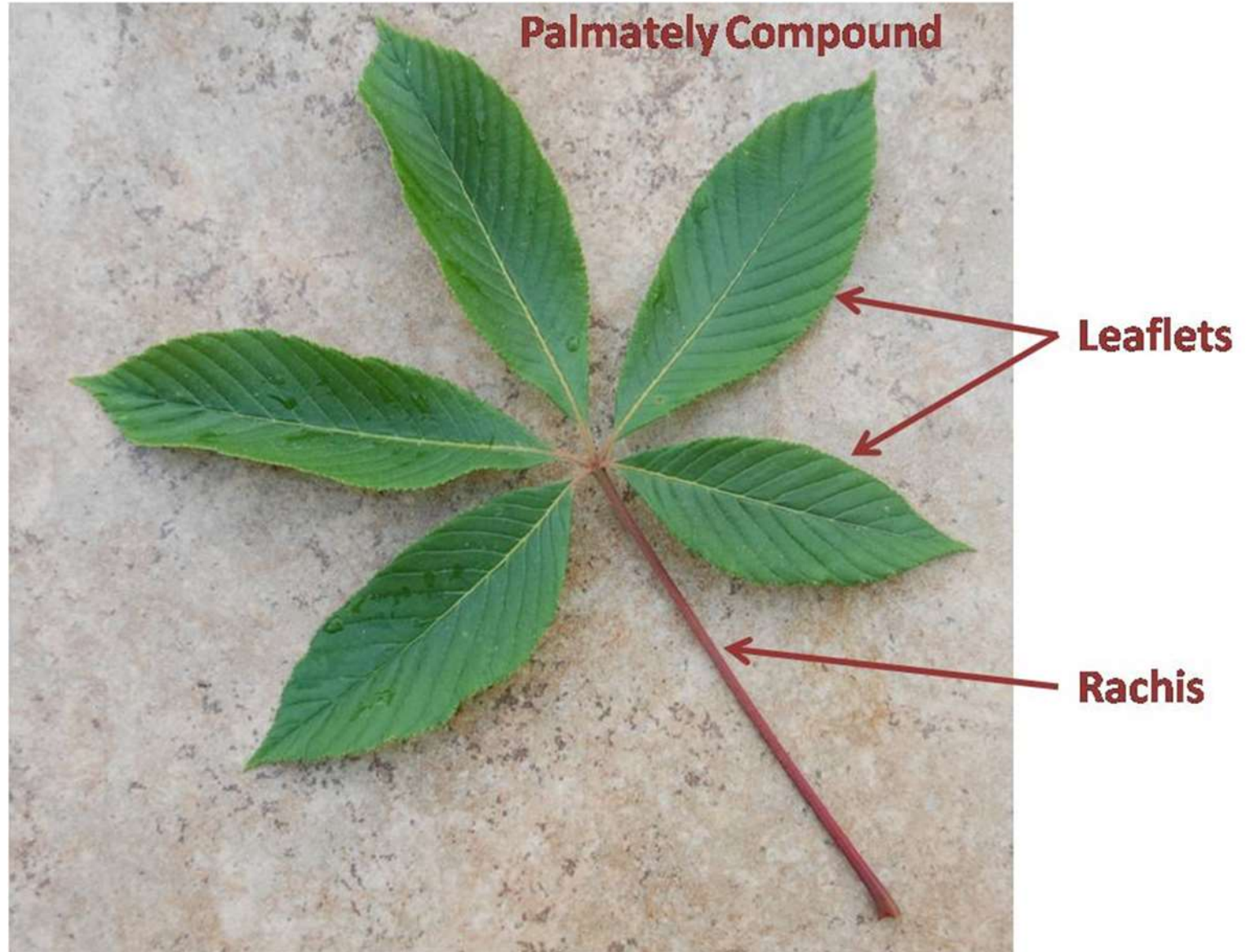
- multiple leaflets
- number of leaflets can play a critical role in identification



Leaf Shapes

Palmately compound

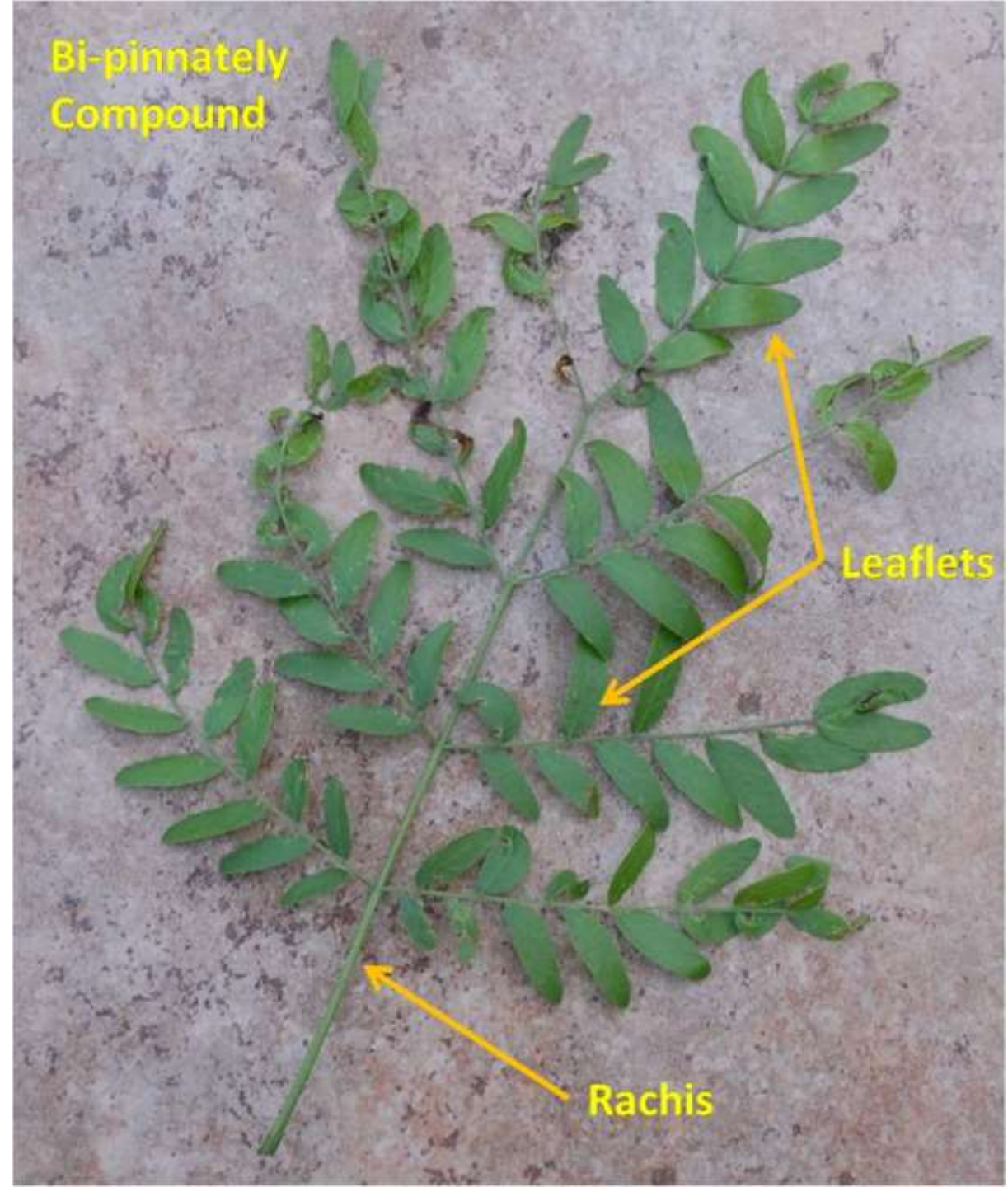
- all leaflets oriented around a single point



Leaf Shapes

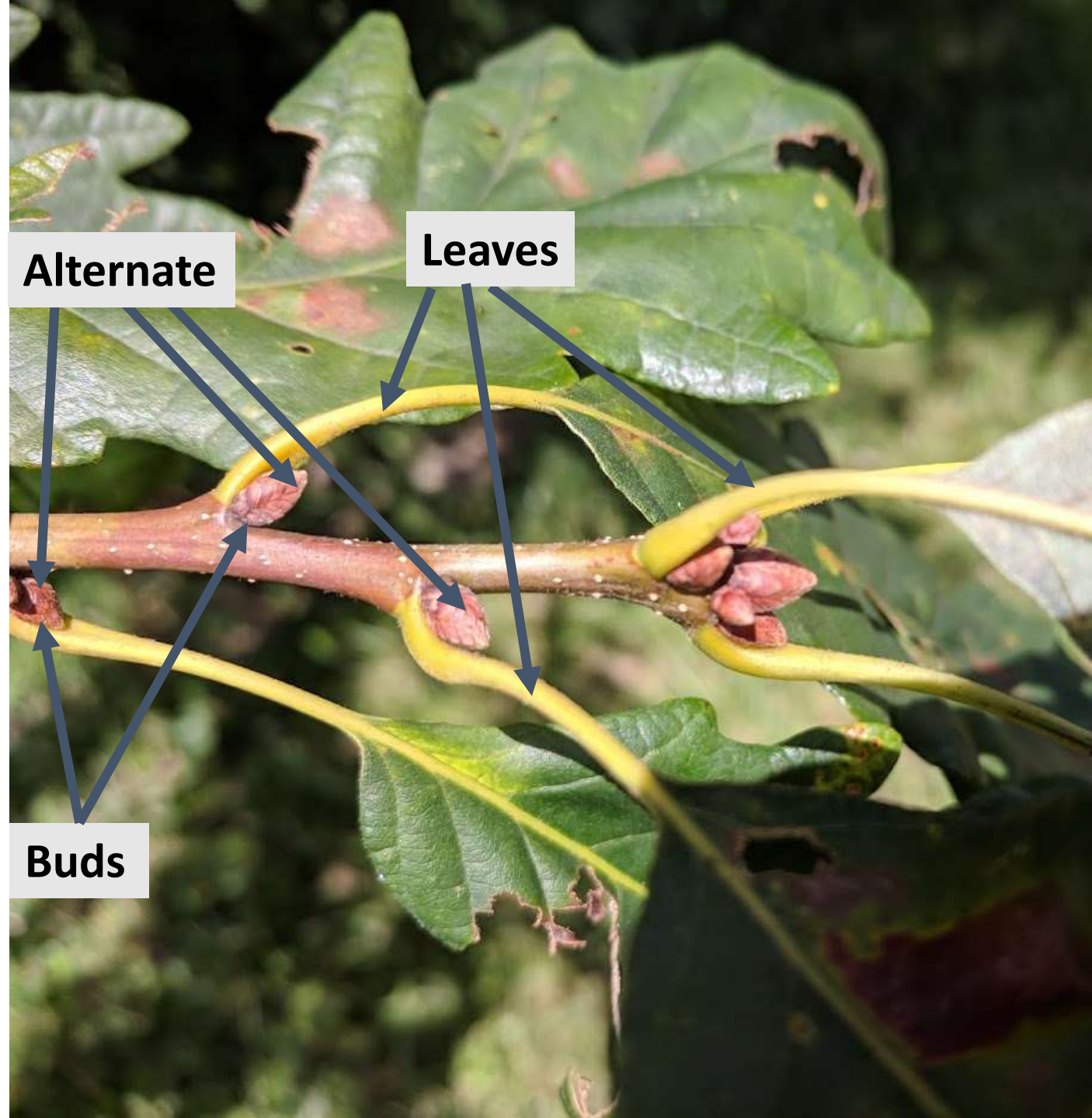
Bi-pinnately compound

- many leaflets on what look to be multiple pinnately compound leaves



Branching Patterns

- Patterns – leaves, twigs and buds follow the same pattern on a tree:
 - Alternate
 - Whorled
 - Opposite





Branching Patterns

Opposite

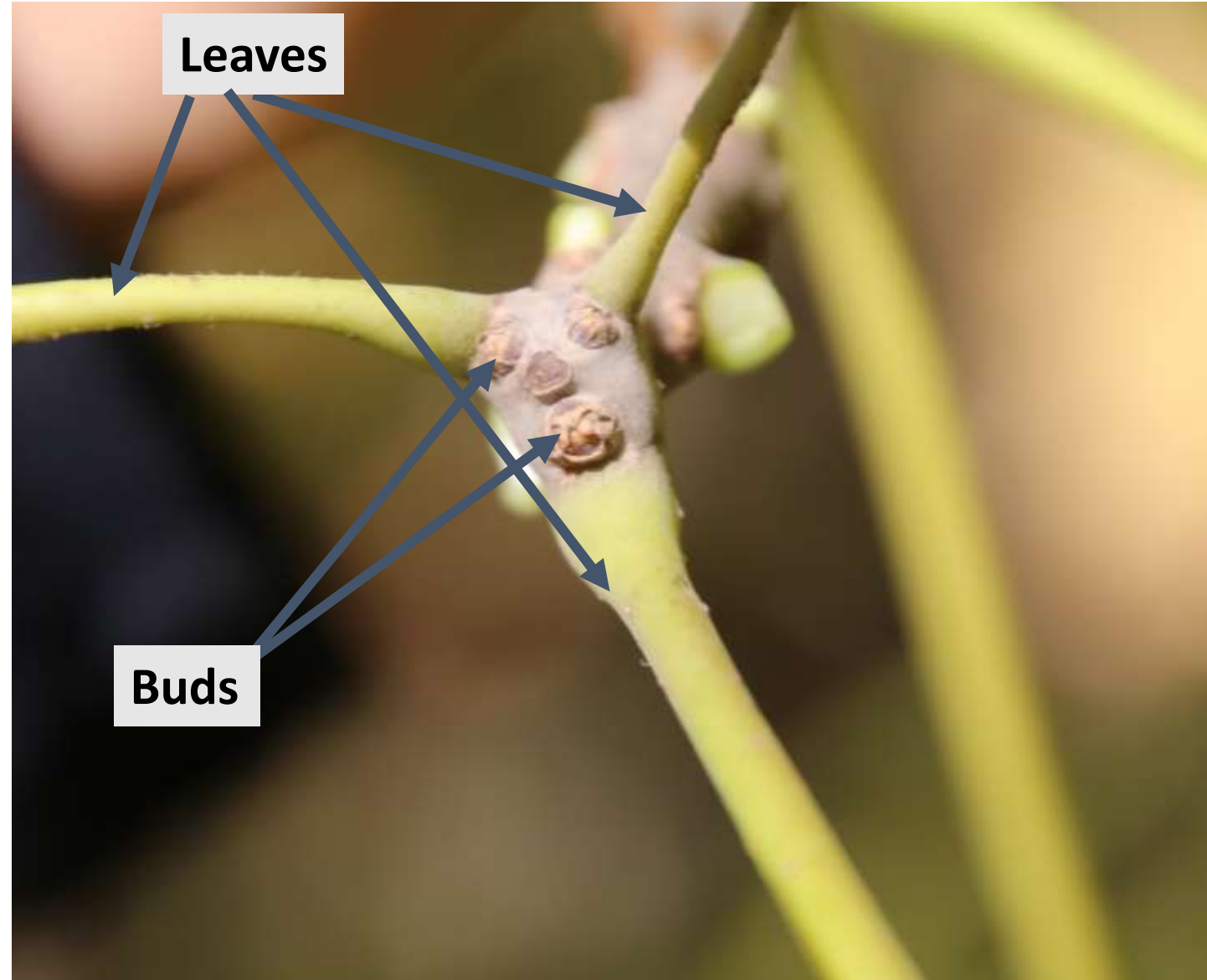


Branching Patterns

Whorled

- Three leaves originating at the same position on the twig
- In Ohio this is catalpa

Northern catalpa *Catalpa speciosa*





Opposites

- Think **MADBuck**
 - **M**aple
 - **A**sh
 - **D**ogwood
 - **B**uckeye and horsechestnut



Sugar Maple *Acer saccharum*



Silver Maple *Acer saccharinum*



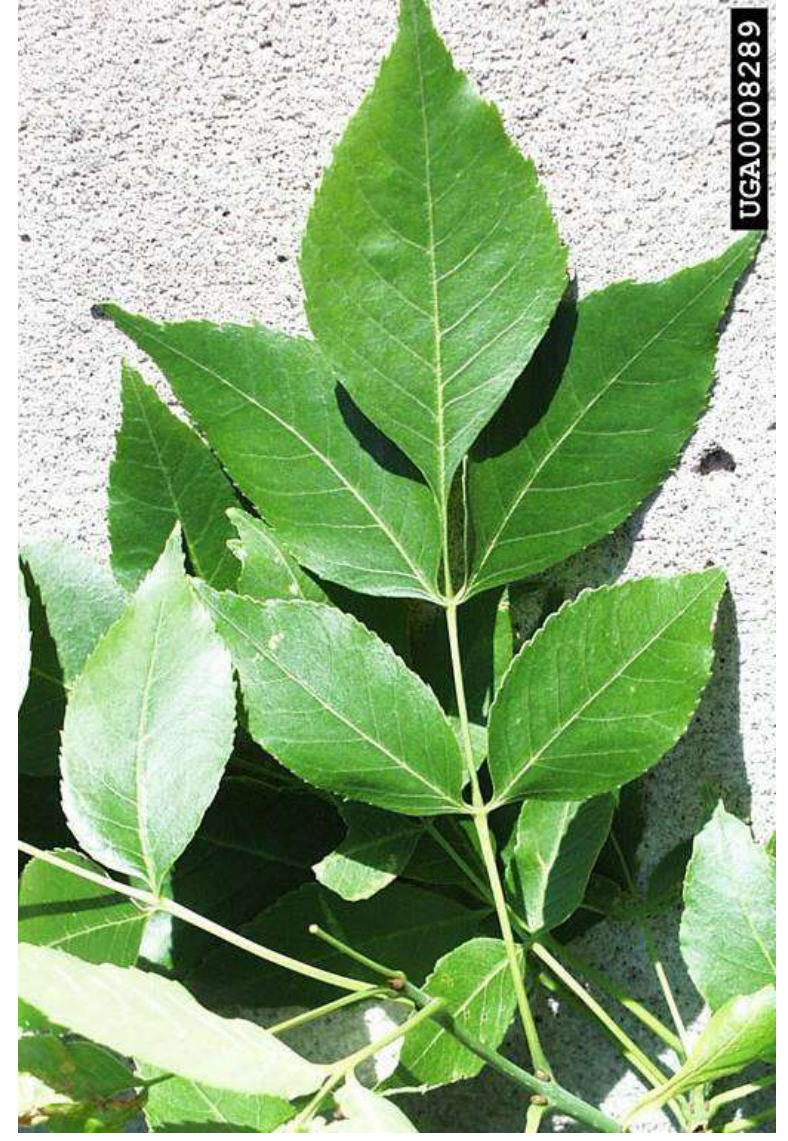
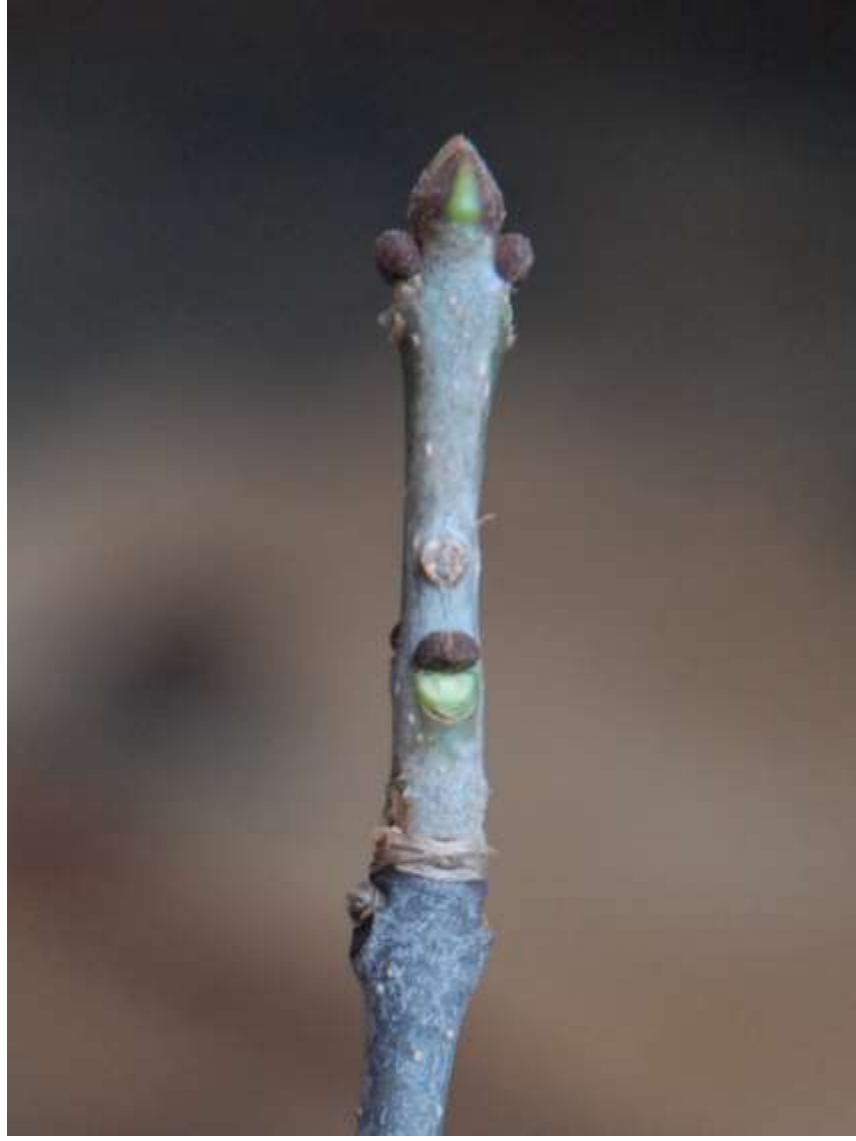
Red Maple *Acer rubrum*



Blue Ash *Fraxinus quadrangulata*



Green Ash *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*



Dogwoods

Flowering

Cornus florida



Buckeye

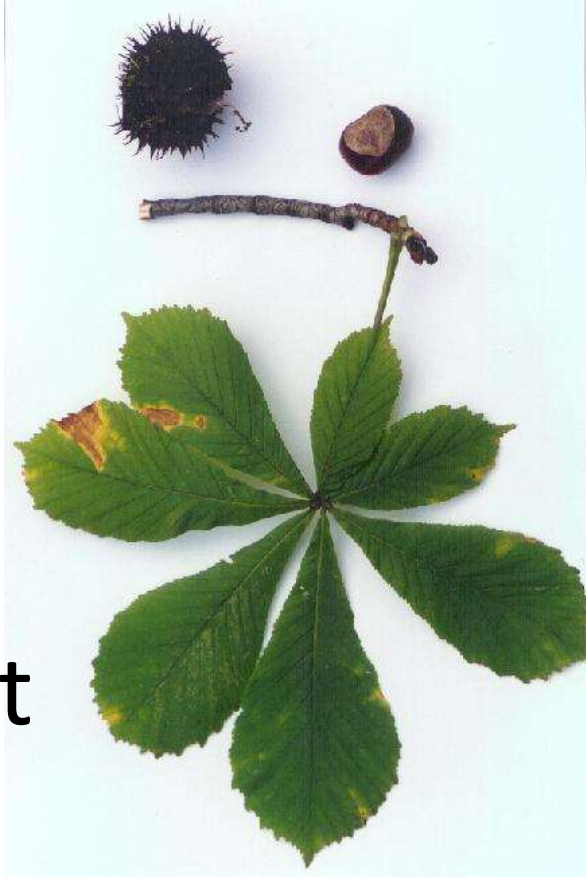
Ohio



Yellow



Horsechestnut





What's Left? Alternates

- Oaks make up a large part of the alternates in Ohio
- They have a cluster of buds at the tip of the twig
- They produce acorns – another good way to differentiate between the species
- We can split them into reds and whites





Red Oaks

- Leaves have bristle hairs on the leaves
- Acorns take 2 years to mature



Northern Red Oak *Quercus rubra*



Shingle Oak *Quercus imbricaria*



White Oaks

- Leaves have rounded lobes with NO bristle hair
- Acorns take 1 year to mature



White Oak *Quercus alba*



Shade Leaf



Bur Oak *Quercus macrocarpa*



Swamp White Oak *Quercus bicolor*



Other Alternates

Black Walnut *Juglans nigra*

- Pinnately compound leaves
- Large fruit
- Chambered pith



Other Alternates

Yellow-poplar *Liriodendron tulipifera*



Other Alternates

Sassafras *Sassafras albidum*



Other ID Characteristics - bark

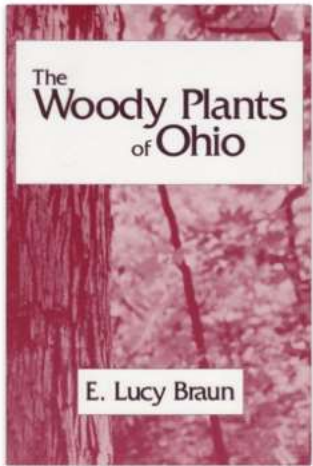


Other ID Characteristics - thorns





Tree ID is all about looking for key characteristics
If using a key those characteristics and terminology are
important to being successful



WOODY PLANTS OF OHIO: TREES, SHRUBS AND WOODY CLIMBERS NATIVE, Paperback – September 1, 1989

by E. LUCY BRAUN (Author)

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From the preface: This book has two principal objectives: 2.) to give information as to what species occur in Ohio and to show by means of maps the distribution of these species; and, 2.) to give to amateurs, students, and fieldworkers in the natural sciences a ready means of identifying woody plants at any season of the year. In addition, data on variation within the species are included, particularly when of geographic significance or when not in accord with the usual "manual" concepts. It has seemed desirable, also, to include some general information concerning economic plants, relationships, and broad geographic distribution of genera and families.



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Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Climbers: Native, Naturalized, and Escaped

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"Not only Ohioans but plant lovers everywhere will welcome this splendid book prepared by one of America's foremost botanists and plant ecologists. . . . Of immeasurable value are Miss Braun's state-county maps charting separately the distribution of almost 350 indigenous species." —*Journal of Forestry*

The late **E. Lucy Braun** was Professor Emerita of Plant Ecology at the University of Cincinnati and author of several books, including *The Monocotyledonae: Cat-tails to Orchids*, also published by OSU Press.



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White Ash Tree



White Ash Leaf



White Ash Bark



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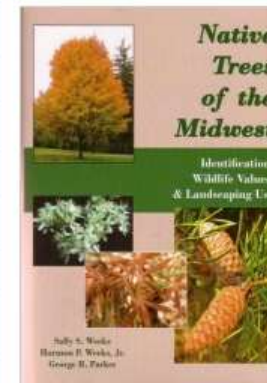
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Native Trees of the Midwest: Identification, Wildlife Values, and Landscaping Use (Hardback)



Sally S. Weeks (Author) Harmon P. Weeks, Jr. (Author)
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Book Description

Native Trees of the Midwest is a definitive guide to identifying trees in Indiana and surrounding states, written by three leading forestry experts. Descriptive text explains how to identify every species in any season and color photographs show all important characteristics. Not only does the book allow the user to identify trees and learn of their ecological and distributional attributes, but it also presents an evaluation of each species relative to its potential ornamental value for those interested in landscaping. Since tree species have diverse values to wildlife, an evaluation of wildlife uses is presented with a degree of detail available nowhere else. The revised and expanded second edition contains a chapter on introduced species that have become naturalized and invasive throughout the region. All accounts have been reviewed and modifications made when necessary to reflect changes in taxonomy, status, or wildlife uses. Keys have been modified to incorporate introduced species.

An interview with the authors is available on [YouTube](#).

About the Author(s):

Sally S. Weeks

Sally Spurgeon Weeks was born and grew up on a dairy farm near Winamac, Indiana. She "found" trees later in life, almost by accident while a student at Purdue University: they became her passion. Charles Deam her posthumous tutor.



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