



Plant Identification Key

- Start at #1 and follow the directions on which number to go to next based on your answer for each question.
- If the final plant doesn't match your sample start over at #1 or look online.

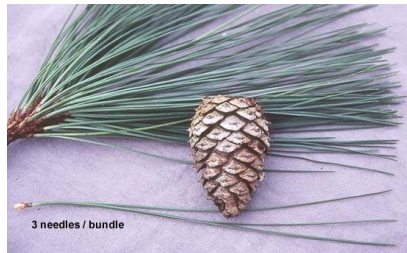
1. Is your sample a broad leaf, needles, or scales?

Broad Leaf



Go To # 4

Needles



Go To # 3

Scales



Go To #2

2. Scale Leaves are found on **Cedar Tree** species. If you found Cedar Tree cones nearby were they rose bud shaped or duck bill shaped?

Rose Bud Shape



Western Red Cedar

Duck Bill Shape



Incense Cedar



Plant Identification Key

3. Are the needles long and grouped in 3's or are the needles short and attached individually to the branch?

Long Needles in Groups of 3



Ponderosa Pine

Short individual needles



Douglas Fir

4. Is the broad leaf **simple** or **compound**? (Hint: look for the bud at the leaf's stem)

Simple



Go To #5

Compound



Go To #12



Plant Identification Key

5. Are the simple leaves **opposite** or **alternate**?

Opposite



Go To #6

Alternate



Go To #8

6. What **shape** are the opposite leaves?

Palmately Lobed



Big Leaf Maple

Round or Oval
(Sometimes Elliptical)



Common Snowberry

Elliptical



Go To #7



Plant Identification Key

7. What type of **habitat** did you collect your sample from?

Sunny, open area
 (Garden, Park, Yards)

Stream sides, edges of meadows
 (Wetter Habitat)



Butterfly Bush

Twinberry Honeysuckle

8. Are the alternate leaves **Lobed** or not lobed?

Lobed

Not Lobed



Go To #9

Go To #13



Plant Identification Key

9. Are the lobed leaves Palmately Lobed with smooth edges, Palmately Lobed with serrated edges, or Pinnately Lobed?

Palmately Lobed
Serrated Edge



Go To #11

Palmately Lobed
Smooth Edge



English Ivy

Pinnately Lobed



Go To #10

10. Are the **Lobes** of the leaf rounded or pointed?

Rounded Lobes



Oregon White Oak

Pointed Lobes



California Black Oak



Plant Identification Key

11. Are the leaves fuzzy with rounded lobes or have pointed lobes and grow on orange-brown twigs?

Fuzzy, Round Lobes



Red Flowering Currant

Pointed Lobes, Orange-Brown Twig



Pacific Ninebark

12. Are the compound leaves **Opposite** or **Alternate**?

Opposite



Go To #15

Alternate



Go To #17



Plant Identification Key

13. Is the leaf long and narrow or are the leaf tips serrated?

Long and Narrow



Willow

Smooth Base and Serrated Tip



Go To #14

14. Is the leaf elliptical and long or oval to rounded?

Long Elliptical



Douglas Spirea

Oval or Rounded



Pacific Serviceberry



Plant Identification Key

15. Are the leaflet edges **smooth** or **serrated**?

Smooth Edges



Oregon Ash

Serrated Edges



Go To #16

16. This is an **Elderberry**. If berries are present, are they blue or red?

Blue Berries



Blue Elderberry

Red Berries



Red Elderberry



Plant Identification Key

17. Are the **leaflets** lobed and feathery, pinnately pointed, or palmately compound?

Lobed and feathery-looking

Pinnately Pointed

Palmately Compound



Queen Anne's Lace



Oregon Grape



Himalyan Blackberry

Can't Find Your Plant on the Key?

If you couldn't find your plant, try again starting at #1 and review the leaf description chart or vocabulary words to make sure you are answering the questions correctly.

If you have tried the plant key twice, your plant might not be on this key since not all plants were listed. Using the leaf description chart, type in the descriptions to search for your plant online. You can also take a picture of your leaf samples and share them on iNaturalist for identification.

iNaturalist: www.inaturalist.org

- Download the App (free) or Create an account on a computer
- Take a picture of your plant sample and upload it onto iNaturalist
- iNaturalist will suggest which plant it most likely is using your picture and location
- Pick the suggestion that most closely fits your plant sample