

DOMINATING NATIVE PLANTS IN CENTRAL WOODS



white pine *Pinus strobus*

5-needle pine with thin, delicate needles; bark dark gray/black; young trunk bark smooth, greenish; light-colored silvery on upper branches; cones elongate. Pine killed by fires.



black oak *Quercus velutina*

Foliage dark green, shiny; leaves sand-papery on touch, blade widening toward summit (largest lobes closer to summit), lobes bristly; bark dark ("black"), consisting of small irregular plates.



white oak *Quercus alba*

Foliage bluish-green, matte (not reflecting light); leaves smooth, lobed (lobes pronounced more or less), without bristles.



red oak *Quercus rubra*

Leaves average green, smooth, lobes bristly, largest lobes at mid-blade ("boat" shape); elongate cracks on bark forming long vertical lines.



black huckleberry *Gaylussacia baccata*

Stems "woody," i.e., with dark bark; leaves yellowish-green, larger than those of blueberries and more wrinkled; fruit black, shiny, edible.



lowbush blueberry *Vaccinium angustifolium*

The lowest of the 3 blueberry species; stems green, without obvious bark; leaves narrow and long; fruit blue, tasty. Plant spreads after fires.

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hillside blueberry *Vaccinium pallidum*

Stems green; leaves pale, especially so when young, broader than those in lowbush blueberry; same height as that of huckleberry; fruit blue, tasty.



catbrier or bullbrier *Smilax rotundifolia*

Prickly vine that often takes over woods (although native); leaves deciduous, rounded, colored the same shade of green on both sides.



bracken fern *Pteridium aquilinum*

Fronde (leaf) shaped as an equilateral triangle, coarse, shiny. Plant drought tolerant, very aggressive, the first to recover after fire, spreads mostly from rhizomes.



Canada mayflower *Maianthemum canadense*

Small plant forming large clones; has a solitary leaf in vegetative stage. Shade-tolerant, a remnant of dark coniferous forest (hemlock in our case).



American beech *Fagus grandifolia*

Leaves simple, rather large and coarse, typically egg-shaped, with lateral veins running straight, parallel to each other, each terminated in a separate tooth at margin.



cherry birch *Betula lenta*

Leaves simple, about 2-3 times as small as beech leaves, egg-shaped, cordate (heart-shaped) or rounded at base, finely and sharply toothed at margin. Crushed twigs have taste and odor of wintergreen.

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Canada shadbush *Amelanchier canadensis*



black cherry *Prunus serotina*



common blackberry *Rubus allegheniensis*