

Vernal Pool Monitoring Leaf Litter ID Sheet

This sheet covers some of the most common trees in Vermont's forests. However, the leaf litter surrounding your vernal pool will almost certainly have leaves not included here. The color and shape may also vary leaf to leaf.

[Forest Trees of Maine](#) is a relatively comprehensive guide that's free to access/download from the State of Maine website. Such a guide is important to reference for unknown leaves, as well as to supplement this sheet.

[iNaturalist](#) is another resource to crowd source a leaf's identification that you're unsure about. The iNaturalist app provides ID suggestions for a photo of a leaf using AI.

Photo by Evelyn Fitzgerald
Flickr CC BY 2.0



Sugar Maple: "U"-shaped separation between three to five lobes. Smooth edges with little serration.



Photo by William Cook

White Oak: Oblong. Rounded, irregular lobes.

Photo by Joe Blowe
Flickr CC BY-SA 2.0



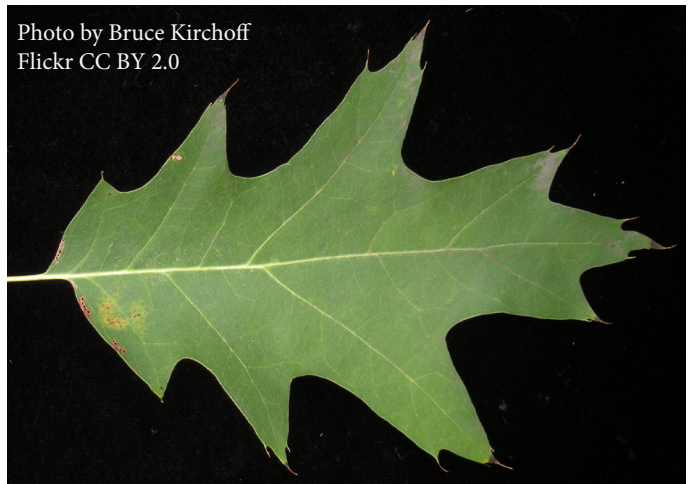
American Beech: Elliptical, three to five inches long. Little serration along edge. Has a paper-like feel to the touch.

Photo by Kent McFarland
Flickr CC BY-NC 2.0



Red Maple: "V"-shaped notches separating between three and five heavily serrated lobes.

Photo by Bruce Kirchoff
Flickr CC BY 2.0



Northern Red Oak: Oblong. Lobes come to a point at their end.

Photo by William Cook



Eastern White Pine: Bunches of five slender needles that average four inches long.

Photo by William Cook



Red Pine: Bunches of two needles that reach lengths of six inches.

Photo by William Cook



Eastern Hemlock: Flat, short ($\frac{1}{2}$ inch long) needles.

Photo by William Cook



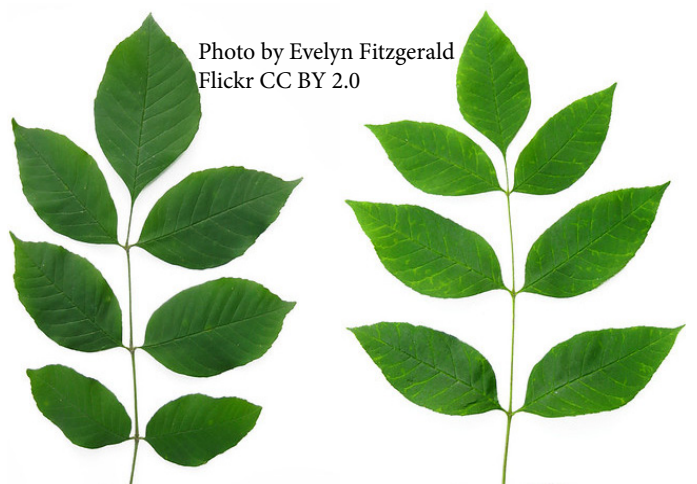
Basswood: Large, can reach six inches across. The bottom edge has two irregular lobes forming a heart-like shape.

Photo by Eli Sagor
Flickr CC BY-NC 2.0



Birch sp.: Two common species: paper and yellow birch. Tear-drop shaped serrated leaves. Use guide to ID to species if possible.

Photo by Evelyn Fitzgerald
Flickr CC BY 2.0



Ash sp.: Two common species: white and green ash. Oblong leaflets coming off of central stem. Use guide to ID to species if possible.