



- Ash leaves are 'compound' which means the leaf has a number of smaller 'leaf-lets'.
- They turn yellow in autumn

- The flowers are VERY tiny and are found close to the black buds.
- Flowers are purple/red until fertilised when they turn green.

Leaf Ash

Fraxinus excelsior

Flower Ash

Fraxinus excelsior



- The fruits hang like a set of keys.
- They are winged to fly away from the tree to grow.

- The black buds are very hard and sometimes known as 'hoof of the devil', because of their shape.

Fruit Ash

Fraxinus excelsior

Fun Fact Ash

Fraxinus excelsior



- Blackberry leaf shape is called palmate.
- It usually has five oval 'leaflets'.

- The flower has five crinkled petals and lots of stamens.

Leaf

Flower

Blackberry

Rubus fruticosus

Blackberry

Rubus fruticosus



- The fruit starts red and ripens to black
- There is a seed inside each tiny section.

- Blackberries have been eaten for millions of years. Evidence of seeds has been found in latrines from pre-historic times.

Fruit

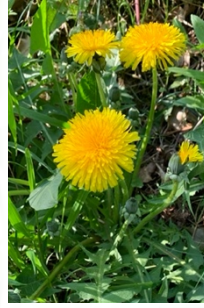
Fun Fact

Blackberry

Rubus fruticosus

Blackberry

Rubus fruticosus



Pappus



- Dandelion leaves have teeth 'like a lion'
- You can see the leaves all year round.

- The flowers can be seen from spring to autumn and even in winter sometimes.

Leaf

Flower

Dandelion

Taraxacum officinale

Dandelion

Taraxacum officinale



Pappus

Pappus



- The seeds of the dandelion - called *pappus* - are spread by the wind.

- Each seed has its own tiny parachute to help it fly further away

Fruit

Fun Fact

Dandelion

Taraxacum officinale

Dandelion

Taraxacum officinale



- Elder leaves are 'compound' which means the leaf has a number of smaller 'leaf-lets'.
- They have a strong smell – that some people think is a bit like cat wee!
- Look for the branching veins underneath.

Leaf Elder

Sambucus nigra

- Hundreds of tiny buds appear in spring, in clusters called 'umbels'.
- These become umbels of aromatic flowers in early summer.
- The flowers can be used to make a drink (cordial).

Flower Elder

Sambucus nigra



Uncooked elderberries are toxic !

- The white flowers become shiny black berries in autumn.
- The berries have seeds inside.
- Elderberries make a drink rich in vitamin C.

Fruit Elder

Sambucus nigra



- The Wood Ear fungus grows on older branches of Elder trees and can be seen all year round.
- It is dried and shrivelled in dry weather or blobby like jelly after rainfall.

Fun Fact Elder

Sambucus nigra



- Hazel leaves are almost symmetrical, but the veins are alternate.
- They have toothed edges.

Leaf Hazel

Corylus avellana

- The female flowers are tiny and crimson coloured.
- Hazels begin flowering in winter.

Flower Hazel

Corylus avellana



- The fruit is called a hazelnut.
- The nut is edible and tasty and often found in chocolate.
- Hazelnuts are an important food source for small mammals too.

Fruit Hazel

Corylus avellana

- The catkins are male and you might see pollen and seeds from them floating in the wind.

Fun Fact Hazel

Corylus avellana



Leaf

Flower

- The leaf shape is called "palmate" – looking a bit like a hand with 5-7 'fingers' called leaflets

- From a distance, the flowers look a little bit like candles on the tree.

Horse chestnut

Horse chestnut

Aesculus hippocastanum

Aesculus hippocastanum



Fruit

Fun Fact

- The fruits are the shiny brown conkers, in spiky shells, that we love to collect and play with.

- There is a notch, called a scarf, where the leaf falls off that looks like a hoof print. Is that why the tree is called a Horse Chestnut ?

Horse chestnut

Horse chestnut

Aesculus hippocastanum

Aesculus hippocastanum

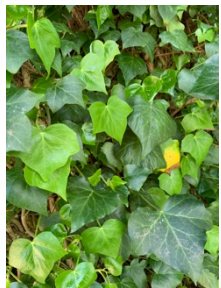


- Ivy leaves are evergreen
- There are a range of sizes and shapes.

Leaf
Ivy
Hedera helix

- The flowers are small with green petals.
- They group together to form a rounded umbrella shape.

Flower
Ivy
Hedera helix



Poisonous if eaten !

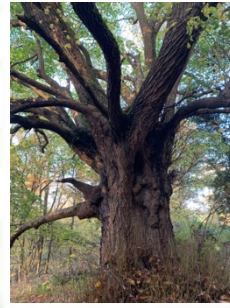
- The fruits are red / brown / chocolate coloured but don't eat them!

Fruit
Ivy
Hedera helix



- Ivy stems can develop roots in the air! These can attach to walls to help the stems to climb up.
- Old ivy plants have very thick stems, almost like trees.

Fun Fact
Ivy
Hedera helix



- Lime tree leaves are heart shaped with a toothed edge and long tip.
- The leaves are arranged on alternate sides on the branch.

Leaf Lime

Tilia cordata

- Lime leaves are edible and when dried, can be used to make a tea infusion that is said to aid sleep.

Flower Lime

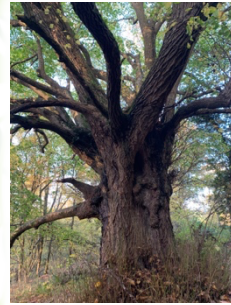
Tilia cordata



- Lime fruits have ribs around the casing and the seeds are inside a soft, pithy ovary.
- You can use the fruits for counting and sorting games.

Fruit Lime

Tilia cordata



- Lime trees can be cut down and will regrow with multiple stems. This is called coppicing.

Fun Fact Lime

Tilia cordata



- Oak trees are one of the last trees to come into leaf in spring.
- The leaves are described as 'lobed'.

Leaf Oak

Quercus robur

- Oak male flowers are very small. Look carefully in spring for the small catkins.
- Female flowers are tiny and red. Can you spot them?

Flower Oak

Quercus robur



- Acorns are the fruits of the oak tree and they change colour from yellow-green to 'acorn' brown as they mature.
- You can play lots of games with acorns.

Fruit Oak

Quercus robur



- Look for 'galls' on the tree. These are habitats for types of wasps – but not the stinging kind!
- The large gall is called an oak apple, but they aren't edible!
- The small gall is called a silk button.

Fun Fact Oak

Quercus robur



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- They have a strong smell – that some people think is a bit like cat wee!
- Look for the branching veins underneath.

Leaf

Poppy

Papaver rhoeas

- Hundreds of tiny buds appear in spring, in clusters called 'umbels'.
- These become umbels of aromatic flowers in early summer.
- The flowers can be used to make a drink (cordial).

Flower

Poppy

Papaver rhoeas



! These poppies are poisonous (a different poppy seed is used on bread)

- The white flowers become shiny black berries in autumn.
- The berries have seeds inside.
- Elderberries make a drink rich in vitamin C.

Fruit

Poppy

Papaver rhoeas



- Poppy seeds can last in the soils for decades, and will germinate when the ground is disturbed.

Fun Fact

Poppy

Papaver rhoeas