Quick Identification Guide

Types of Coniferous Trees
A conifer is a tree that bears cones and has needle-like or scale-like leaves that are typically evergreen (larches are an exception).

Pine & Larch
Needles are in bundles or clusters of two, three, or five.

Fir
Soft and flat needles form singly on twigs in two rows and grow outward and appear flat.

Spruce
Sharp-pointed striped needles with diamond-shaped cross-section. Needles are attached all around the twig and have the look of a bristle brush.

Cypress or False-Cedar
Scale-like leaves that grow on flattened sprays or all around the twig.

Living Land

Acknowledgement
Queens Botanical Garden acknowledges that it is situated on the traditional land of the Matinecock people, the first people of Flushing, Queens. We pay respect to the Matinecock people, past, present, and future, their ancestors who have stewarded the land for generations, and their continuing presence on this land today. We honor these origins by continuing to steward the land with sustainable practices, love for community, and commitment to equity, as well as helping to educate the public about the history, significance, contributions, and impact of indigenous peoples and culture.

We thank Tecumseh Ceaser, Artist and Cultural Consultant of the Matineock Tribal Nation, for his guidance as we reflect on our acknowledgement.

Winter Plant Walk

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Twig Arrangement
Twig arrangement or orientation can help identify a tree’s species!

Alternate
Opposite
In New York State, native plants that are opposite can be remembered with the "MADCAP Horse" mnemonic:
Maples
Ashes
Dogwoods
Caprifoliaceae (honeysuckle)
Horse Chestnut

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43-50 Main Street, Flushing, NY 11355 • queensbotanical.org
Winter Plant Map

Fun fact! Despite the conditions of the cold-weather season, evergreen plants have foliage that remains green throughout the year. Evergreens have evolved to store water efficiently due to the scarce resources and have adapted to support lower photosynthesis and conserve water during dry periods.

Photos: Jess Brey, Oliver Lopez
Cover: Hamamelis vernalis, witch Hazel

Scan QR code to learn more about plants that are in season during your visit!