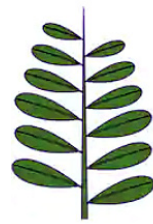


# Canarsie Park Tree Guide

A selection of some of the most common tree species found in the park.

An important key to tree identification is leaf arrangement. The two most common types are *alternate*, where each leaf is staggered along the twig; and *opposite*, where each leaf has another one mirroring it on the opposite side. Leaf arrangement has been indicated in the various tree species shown below.



Alternate



Opposite



## Eastern White Pine

(*Pinus strobus*) Soft, slender, blue-green needles, 3 to 5 inches long, arranged in groups of 5; mature reddish-brown cones may be up to 7 inches long, and are often whitened with pine resin; bark on mature trees is dark grayish-brown with flat ridges; white pine resin often runs down the trunk of mature trees.



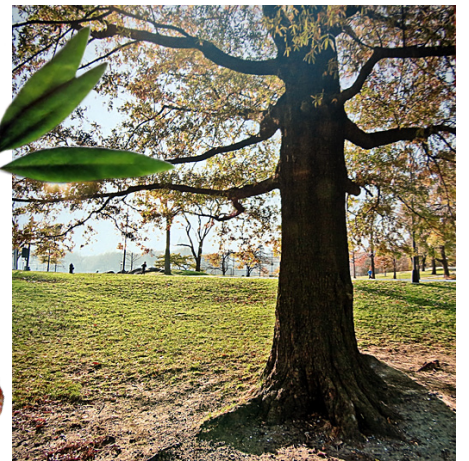
## London Planetree

(*Platanus x acerifolia*) Alternate, simple leaves with pointed lobes; fruit is a 1" diameter ball of compact, dry fruit seeds; exfoliating bark in shades of pale olive, brown, ochre, and gray reveals lighter bark beneath.



## American Elm

(*Ulmus americana*) Alternate, double-toothed leaves, unequal at base; fruit is a notched samara fringed with fine white hairs; one of our most beautiful shade trees, its typical growth habit features a vase-shaped crown with many upright undulating limbs.



## Willow Oak (*Quercus phellos*)

Alternate, narrow, lance-like leaves, 2 to 6 inches long; fruit is a small button-like acorn with a shallow cap; bark is reddish-brown and broken into rough ridges.



## European Linden

(*Tilia x europaea*) Alternate, simple, heart-shaped leaves with fine teeth; fragrant yellowish flowers emerge in early June and are borne on leaf-like bracts; small nut-like fruits in summer.



**Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*)** Alternate, simple, 5-7 sharply lobed leaves with deep, wide sinuses; acorn is small, brown with a saucer-like cap; bark is finely fissured.





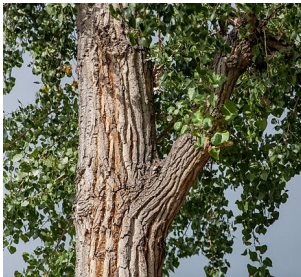
### Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)

Alternate, heart-shaped leaves; fruit is a 2-3 inch seed pod; very popular as an ornamental, its showy pink flowers appear in April covering every branch and even emerging from its trunk. Dark gray bark with many shallow cracks and flakes.



### American Holly

(*Ilex opaca*) Alternate, evergreen leaves with sharply pointed tip and several sharp spines on either side; tiny white spring flowers; red fruit appears in clusters on female trees in October and is eaten by birds.



### Eastern Cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*)

Alternate, triangular leaves, 3 to 5 inches long, with short rounded teeth; bark is gray-brown and deeply furrowed; seeds are produced on female trees in tassel-like catkins that release an abundance of wind-pollinated, cottony white, silky-haired seeds.



### Honeylocust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*)

Alternate, compound leaves with 18 to 30 leaflets; small flower clusters are greenish yellow; fruit is a thick, 7 to 18-inch brown seed pod produced in the fall; some trees exhibit clusters of very large sharp spines on their trunks; dark gray bark is broken into long scaly ridges.



### Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*)

Opposite, pointed, elliptical leaves; red fruits mature in early fall; coarse bark; very showy spring flowers that feature white or pink notched bracts (often mistaken as flower petals).



### Sweetgum

(*Liquidambar styraciflua*)

Alternate, star-shaped leaves, with 5 to 7 lobes; brilliant fall foliage of yellow, orange and red; fruit is a spiky seed ball containing many seed chambers; bark is grayish-brown and deeply furrowed.



**Ailanthus (*Ailanthus altissima*)** Alternate, compound leaves, 18 to 24 inches long with 13 to 25 pointed leaflets, foliage produces a strong odor when crushed; tiny green flowers bloom in clusters in June. An aggressively spreading plant that thrives in poor soil and tolerates urban pollution.



### Black Locust

(*Robinia pseudoacacia*) Alternate, compound leaves with 7 to 19 leaflets; fruit is a flat, 3 to 5-inch brown seed pod; May flowers appear in fragrant white clusters; rough, deeply-furrowed bark.

