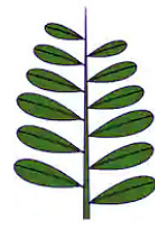


Ridgewood Reservoir Tree Guide

A selection of some of the most common tree species found at the reservoir.

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 tree species shown below.



Alternate



Opposite



Mulberry

(*Morus* spp.) Alternate, simple oval leaves, lobed or unlobed; fruit may be white, pink, red, or purple; bark is reddish brown and fissured; exposed roots appear orange in color. Most trees at Ridgewood are the non-native White Mulberry (*Morus alba*).



Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*) Alternate, simple leaves with many fine teeth; fruit ripens to dark purple in summer; irregular crown; mature bark is dark gray and flakes off in scales revealing orange beneath.



Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*) Alternate, smooth-edged leaves that may have 2, 3, or no lobes, very attractive fall colors; fruits are dark blue, berry-like; young twigs aromatic when bruised; deeply fissured ash-gray bark with flattened ridges. Can be a medium-sized tree or exist as many small clonal sprouts forming dense thickets.



Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*) Opposite, oval dark green leaves; twigs often end in a short spine; glossy black fruit; bark is smooth when young, cracked and flaking with age. Large shrub or low-branched tree.



Eastern Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) Evergreen scale-like leaves, closely pressed together and overlapping; fruiting cones appear waxy blue; handsome reddish-brown bark that exfoliates in long strips.

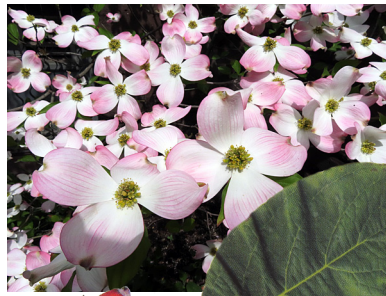


Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*) Alternate, simple, 5-7 sharply lobed leaves with deep, wide sinuses; acorn is small, brown with a saucer-like cap; bark is finely fissured.



Crabapple (*Malus* spp.)

Alternate, elliptical leaves with many minute teeth along edge; fruit is a variable in color from yellow to red; very popular as an ornamental, its showy flowers appear in shades of red, pink, and white from mid to late spring.



Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*)

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



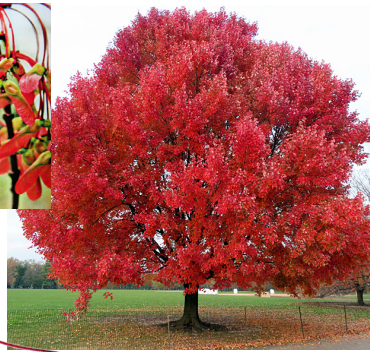
Staghorn Sumac (*Rhus typhina*)

Alternate, compound leaves with 11 to 31 long, pointed green leaflets, turning bright red in fall; red fruit on upright hairy clusters; small native tree that typically grows in dense clusters.



Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)

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



Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*)

Opposite, simple, 3 to 5-lobed green leaves turning bright red and yellow in fall; fruit is a samara with wings angled downward; young bark is smooth and light gray turning dark and scaly in maturity.



Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*)

Opposite, simple, sharply pointed, leaves with 5 to 7 lobes, turning bright yellow in fall; fruit is a samara with horizontally spreading wings; gray bark has long, shallow furrows.



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.



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.