

Trees Atlanta Dichotomous Tree Key

Directions: Use the key below to determine the name of the tree you are observing.

1A. Is your leaf a broadleaf (leaves that are thin, wide and flat)? If so, go to # 3

1B. Is your leaf a conifer (leaves that are needle-like or scale-like)?If so, go to #2

2A. Is your leaf needle-like and bundled in groups of 3 needles?Loblolly Pine
Pinus taeda

2B. Is your leaf needle-like and resembles a feather?If so, you have a Bald Cypress *Taxodium distichum*

3A. Is your leaf a simple leaf? (a simple leaf usually has one leaflet, a petiole, and a bud at the base of its petiole)If so, go to #4

3B. Is your leaf a compound leaf? (a compound leaf has two or more leaflets and a bud at the base of its petiole) If so, you have a Pecan *Carya illinoensis*

4A. Is your leaf entire/un-lobed.....If so, go to #5

4B. Is your leaf lobed (when the spaces between the teeth run ¼ or more to the center of the leaf).....If so, go to #6

5A. Is your leaf smooth/entire?.....If so, you have a Dogwood *Cornus florida*

5B. Is your leaf serrated?If so, you have an American Elm *Ulmus americana*

6A. Is your leaf 4-lobed and resembles a cat face?if so, you have a Tuliptree *Liriodendron tulipifera*

6B. Congrats! You're done! Now you can walk down the street and name every tree you see. ☺

Some Common Leaf Shapes

