

The Street Trees



of Mattapoisett

A Helpful Guide from the
Mattapoisett Tree Committee

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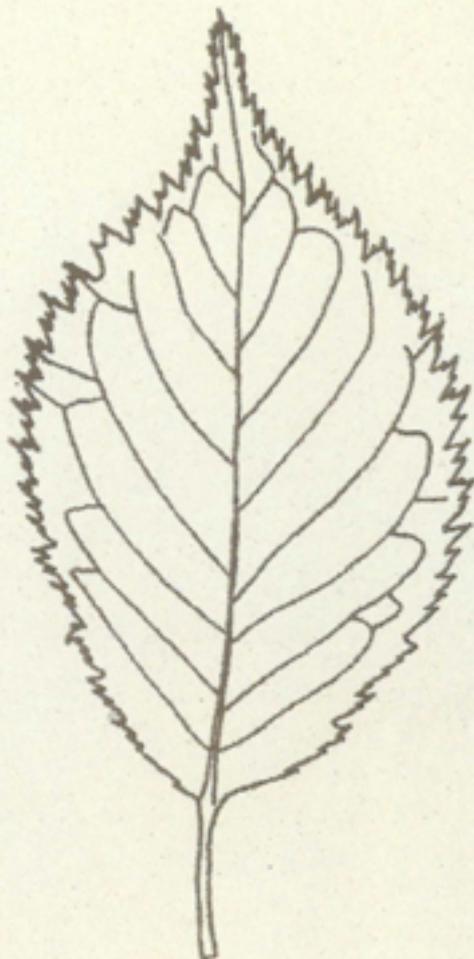
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Cover: A reproduction of a picture of Water Street, Mattapoisett, MA prior to the hurricane of 1938.

JAPANESE CHERRY (*Prunus serrulata*)

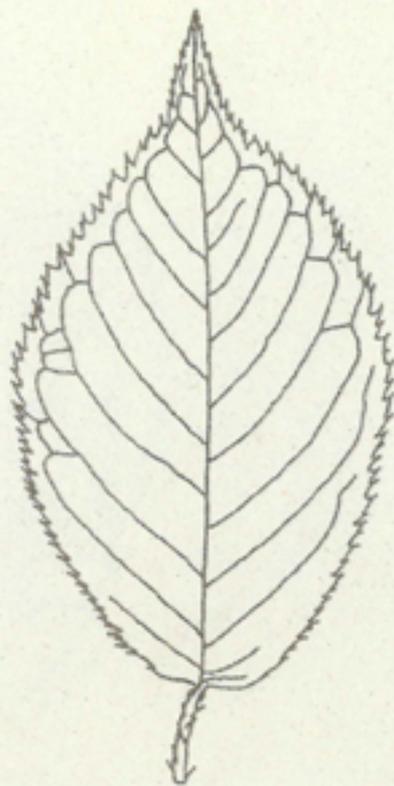
The shiny reddish bark is as pretty as the pink flowers in May.



Leaves Lanceolate, to 4 in (10 cm) long and 1¼ in (3 cm) across, tapering to a slender point at the tip, finely toothed at the margin, matte dark green. **Bark** Glossy red-brown and smooth, conspicuously banded with pale, horizontal lenticles, peeling horizontally in narrow strips. **Flowers** White or pink, ¾ in (2 cm) across, borne singly or in small clusters of up to three in spring before or just after the young leaves emerge.

YOSHINO CHERRY (*Prunus x yedoensis*)

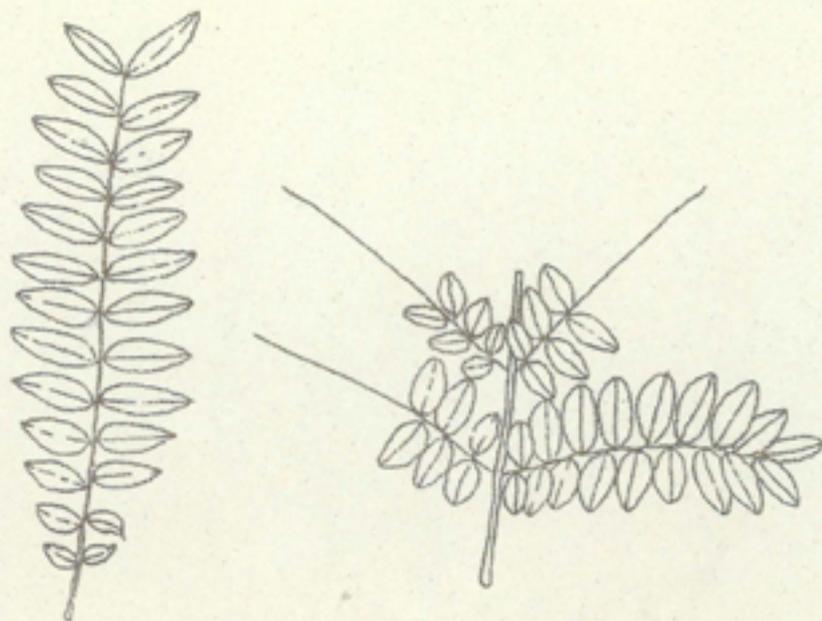
This cherry tree is one of the first bloomers of the spring.



Leaves Elliptical, to $4\frac{1}{2}$ in (11 cm) long and $2\frac{1}{2}$ in (6 cm) across, taper-pointed at the tip, sharply toothed at the margin, downy on both sides but particularly so when young beneath, becoming smooth and glossy above. **Bark** Purple-gray, with thick bands of corky lenticels. **Flowers** $1\frac{1}{2}$ in (4 cm) across, pale pink fading to nearly white, with five petals notched at the tip, borne in small clusters in early spring before the young leaves emerge. **Fruit** A nearly rounded cherry, $\frac{2}{5}$ in (1.02 cm) across, red ripening to black.

HONEY LOCUST (*Gleditsia tricanthos*)

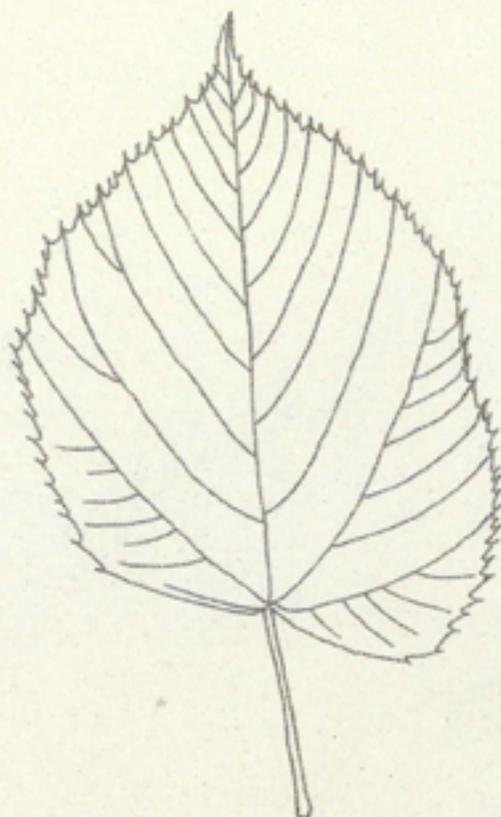
This tree has compound leaves with many leaflets. It often is discovered with greenish lichens, which do not damage the tree.



Leaves First leaves from spurs on the old wood pinnate, later leaves on new shoots usually bipinnate, with numerous small leaflets, to 1½ in (4 cm) long, minutely toothed, bright green, turning yellow in autumn; shoots usually spiny. **Bark** Dark gray, scaly, with clusters of branched spines. **Flowers** Males and females both very small and yellow-green, in separate, small, cylindrical, mainly upright racemes to 2 in (5 cm) long, from the old shoots, on the same plant in early summer. **Fruit** A large, often twisted, brown, hanging pod, to 18 in (45 cm) long.

AMERICAN LINDEN (*Tilia americana*)

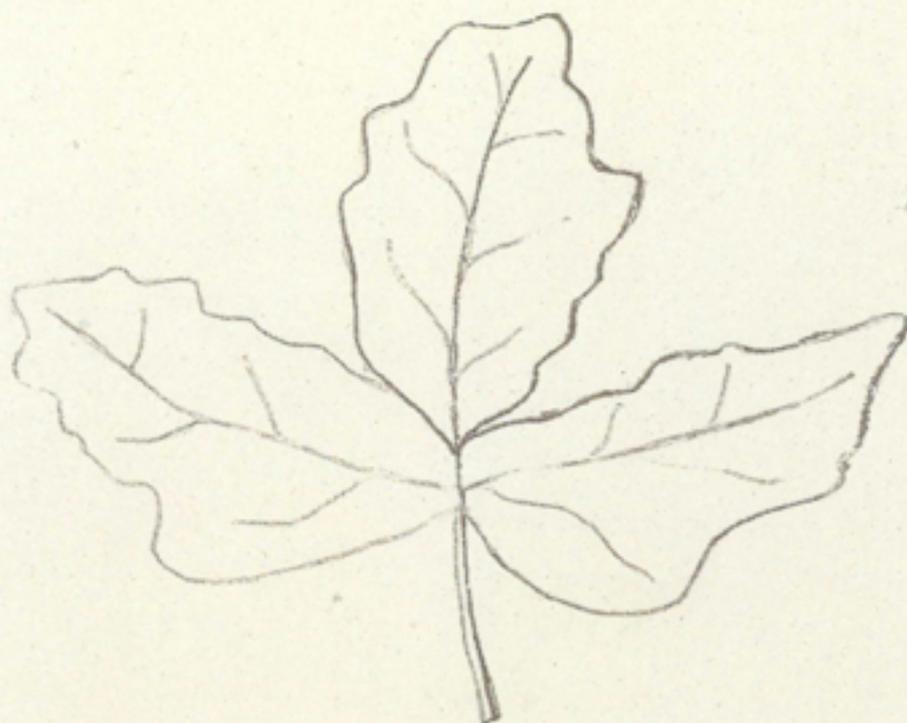
Fragrant flowers and heart shaped leaves are special features of this tree.



Leaves Broadly ovate to nearly rounded, to 8 in (20cm) long and 6 in (15cm) across, abruptly tapered to a fine tip with coarse, pointed teeth, matte deep green above, paler and glossy beneath, becoming smooth on both sides except for the tufts of brown hairs in the vein axils beneath. **Bark** Brown to gray, cracked into long, scaly ridges. **Flowers** 5/8 in (1.5 cm) across, pale yellow, with five petals, fragrant, in pendulous clusters of up to ten, each cluster with an oblong bract to 4 in (10 cm) long, in midsummer. **Fruit** Rounded, woody, pale gray-green, about 3.8 in (1 cm) across.

PAPER BARK MAPLE (*Acer griseum*)

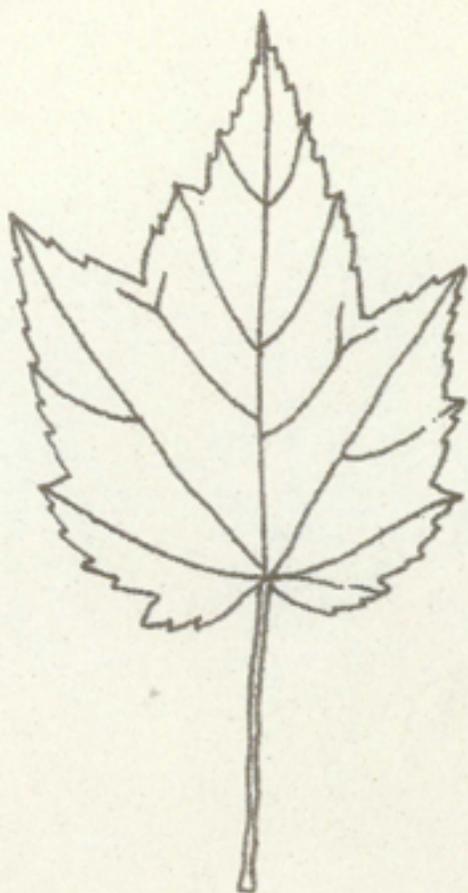
A small maple tree with unique cinnamon-brown peeling bark,



Leaves With three elliptic leaflets, each with several large, blunt teeth on each side, the central leaflet to 4 in (10 cm) long and 2 in (5 cm) across, dark green above, blue-white and densely covered with soft hairs beneath, turning red in autumn. **Bark** Reddish to pale cinnamon-brown, peeling in thin, papery flakes. **Flowers** Small, yellow-green, on hairy stalks, in drooping clusters in late spring with the young leaves. **Fruit** With broad, pale green wings, to 1¼ in (3 cm) long.

RED MAPLE (*Acer rubrum*)

Red flowers on this tree are one of the first signs of spring.



Leaves To 4 in (10cm) long and nearly the same across, with three or five toothed lobes, dark green and smooth above, blue-white with hairs on the veins beneath, turning red or yellow in autumn.

Bark Dark gray and smooth. **Flowers** Small and red, on slender stalks, in dense clusters on the shoots in early spring. **Fruit** With red wings, about $\frac{3}{4}$ in (2 cm) long.

SUGAR MAPLE (*Acer saccharum*)

This maple tree is the source of maple syrup when tapped in spring.



Leaves Palmately lobed, to 5 in (13 cm) long and slightly more across, with five lobes, the three largest with few prominent teeth, heartshaped at the base, mid- to dark green above, with hairs in the vein axils beneath, turning yellow to orange or red in autumn.

Bark Gray-brown, smooth, becoming furrowed and scaly with age.

Flowers Small, yellow-green, without petals, drooping on slender stalks, in open clusters in spring with the young leaves. **Fruit** With nearly parallel wings, 1 in (2.5 cm) long.

PIN OAK (*Quercus palustris*)

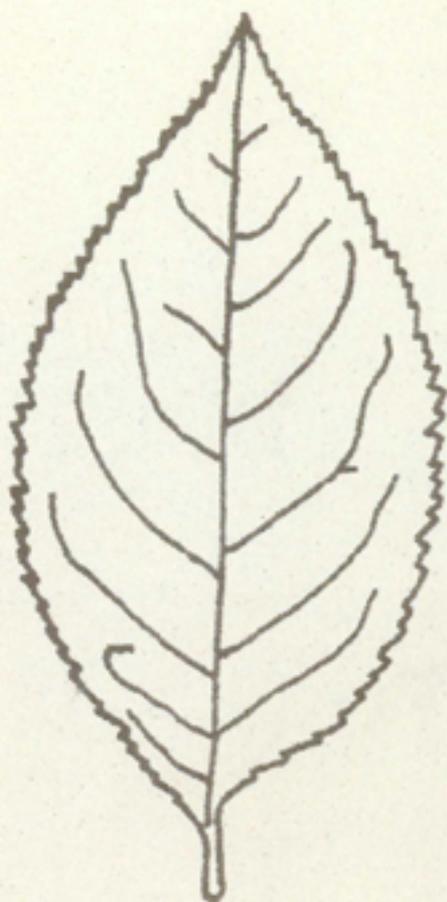
A native Massachusetts Oak with dark red leaves in the fall.



Leaves Elliptic to obovate, to 6 in (15 cm) long and $4\frac{3}{4}$ in (12 cm) across, deeply lobed, glossy green on both sides, paler with tufts of brown hairs in the vein axils beneath. **Bark** Gray-brown, smooth. **Flowers** Males in yellow-green, drooping catkins, females inconspicuous, separately on the same plant in late spring. **Fruit** An acorn, to $\frac{5}{8}$ in (1.5 cm) long, one-quarter to one-third enclosed in a broad cup.

PURPLE LEAF PLUM (*Prunus cerasifera*)

The leaves are deep mahogany-red all summer long.



Leaves Ovate to obovate, to 2½ in (6 cm) long and 1¼ in (6 cm) across, toothed at the margin, of lasting purple color and smooth above, downy on the veins beneath. **Bark** Purple-brown, thinly scaly, fissured with age. **Flowers** 1 in (2.5 cm) across, white, with five petals and reflexed sepals, borne singly or in small clusters in early spring before the leaves emerge.

RHODODENDRON (Rhododendron sp.)

This broadleaf evergreen is really a shrub, not a tree.

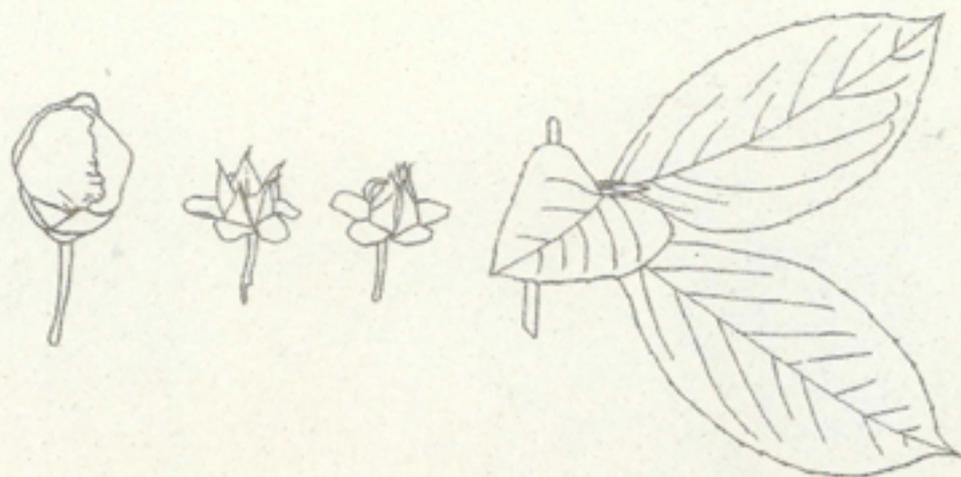


Leaves Alternate, simple, entire, mostly 2-3 in (5-8 cm) long, usually elliptic; essentially hairless, rusty-scaly beneath; thick, leathery.

Flowers May-June, about 1 1/2 in (4 cm) across in terminal clusters of 4-10 flowers. Extensive breeding of Rhododendron have greatly expanded the range of flower colors today, from pale rosy-purple, white, pink, lavender, purple, red and even yellow flowers can be found on various named varieties. Usually a low, compact, rounded evergreen shrub.

Stewartia (*Stewartia pseudocamellia*)

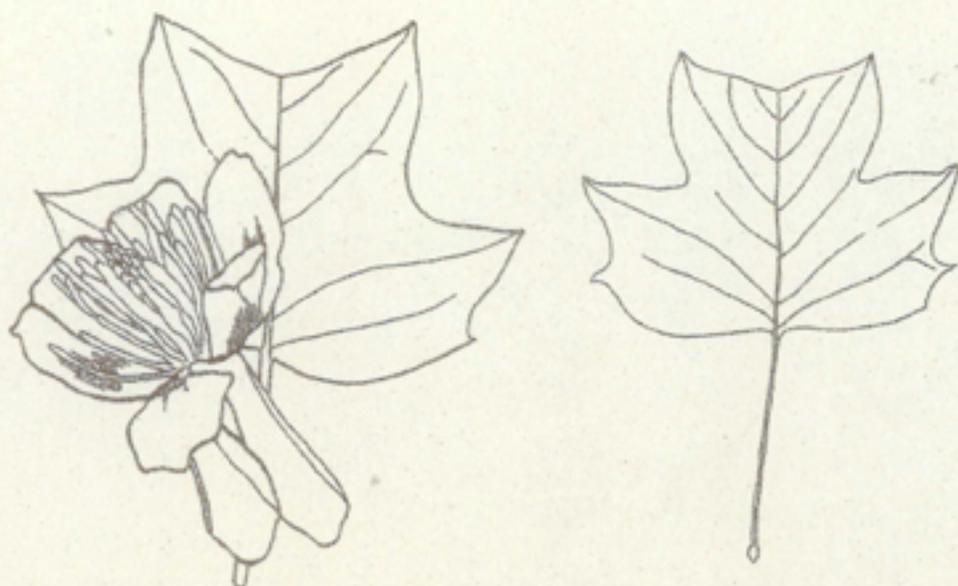
This tree presents interesting features every season of the year.



Leaves Broadly ovate to elliptical, to 4 in (10 cm) long and 2½ in (6 cm) across, tapered to a short point, finely toothed, dark green and smooth above, smooth or hairy beneath, turning yellow to orange or red in autumn. **Bark** Red-brown, peeling in thin, irregular plates, leaving gray and pink patches. **Flowers** 2½ in (6 cm) across, white, with five petals, the numerous stamens with yellow filaments and darker anthers, with two leafy bracts outside the sepals, borne singly or in pairs in the leaf axils in summer. **Fruit** A woody, red-brown capsule, about ¾ in (2 cm) long.

TULIP TREE (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)

Did this tree get its name from the shape of the flower or the leaf?



Leaves To 6 in (15 cm) or longer, with two lobes at the tip and two at the side, dark green above, bluish white beneath, turning yellow to orange in autumn. **Bark** Gray-brown, furrowed with age.

Flowers To 2½ in (6 cm) long, with nine tepals, three green, reflexed, six pale green banded orange near the base, singly at the ends of the shoots in May-June. **Fruit** A conical, pale brown cluster.

Value of Trees...

Trees provide shade and beauty while they are busy converting carbon dioxide into oxygen. The roots hold the soil to prevent erosion. Their canopy is the perfect setting for "A place of rest". Who can imagine Mattapoissett without trees? Let's work together to protect and maintain the health, beauty, quantity, diversity and vitality of Mattapoissett's trees for the benefit of its citizens and future generations.

Credits: Viertel, Arthur T. Trees, Shrubs, and Vines.
Syracuse University Press, 1970.
Coombes, Allen J. Eyewitness Handbooks, Trees.
New York, New York, 1992.

*"He that plants trees loves others besides himself."
-Thomas Fuller, 1732*

MATTAPOISETT
TREE COMMITTEE



OUR ROOTS ARE
IN MATTAPOISETT

The mission of the Mattapoissett Tree Committee is to increase, protect, and maintain the health, beauty, quantity, diversity, and vitality of Mattapoissett's trees for the benefit of its citizens and future generations.