

Identifying a Sugar Maple Tree

There are many guides to winter tree ID online. Maple trees have twigs that are opposite (the twig on the left hand side). Ash is the only other native tree in Minnesota that has this opposite pattern. The twigs in a maple are slender with sugar maple having very pointy terminal buds.

The bark of young maples are generally a light gray to brown, with a smooth surface. As it ages, the bark will be gray to dark brown with flared vertical plates, semi ridged or overlapping shingles look.

To download a winter tree ID guide click the link below.
<https://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/leaf/Pages/LEAF-Tree-Identification-Cards.aspx>

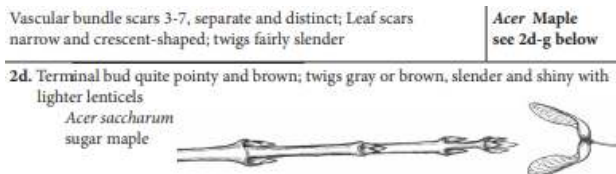
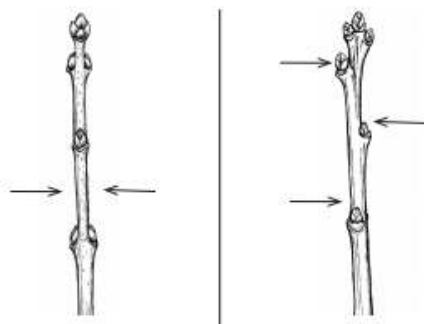


Image of sugar maple bark. Image taken by MN DNR.

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/trees/sugar-maple.html>

Pictures from University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
Winter Tree Guide