

Tree watching checklist

Leaves

Are the leaves needlelike or scale like? Are the leaves broad and flat?

Are they simple or compound?

What shape are the leaves?

Are there teeth along the edges of the leaves? Are the leaves hairy or smooth?

Are the leaves growing opposite each other on the twig or are they arranged alternately?

What colour are the leaves in the summer and the fall?

Flowers and Twigs

Does the tree have flowers or cones?

If it has cones, what shape and size are they? Do they grow at the top of the tree or from the tips of the branches?

What colour, shape and size are the flowers?

When ripe, is the fruit hard like a nut or soft like a berry? What colour is it?

What shape, size and colour are the seeds?

Bark

Is the bark rough or smooth?

Is it scaly, stringy, flaky, peeling or ridged? What colour is the bark?

Buds

Are the buds pointed or rounded?

Are they sticky or dry?

Do the buds smell?

How are the buds arranged on the twig, opposite or alternate?

Silhouettes

What is the general shape of the tree?

Is it wider at the top or the bottom?

Is it pointed or rounded at the top?

Does it have branches all the way down its trunk or only part way down?