



32



If the leaves are compound, composed of three or more leaflets, go to  next page
(You can tell leaves from leaflets because there is no bud at the base of a leaflet)

If the leaves are simple, not made up of leaflets, go to  below

If there are three or more veins of equal size branching out at the leaf base like this:

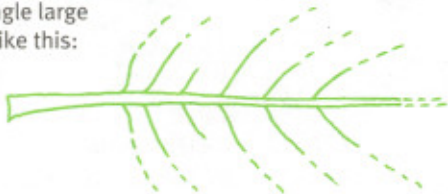


go to



page 38

If the main veins branch off from a single large central vein like this:



go to



page 40

If the leaves have eight or more leaflets, go to



below

If there are fewer leaflets, go to



page 35

If the leaflet margins are saw-toothed, it's a **WALNUT**. Go to



next page

If they're not saw-toothed, go to



below

If there are rounded leaflets and thorns, it is

BLACK LOCUST

Robinia pseudoacacia

If not, go to



below

If the leaves smell bad, it is

AILANTHUS

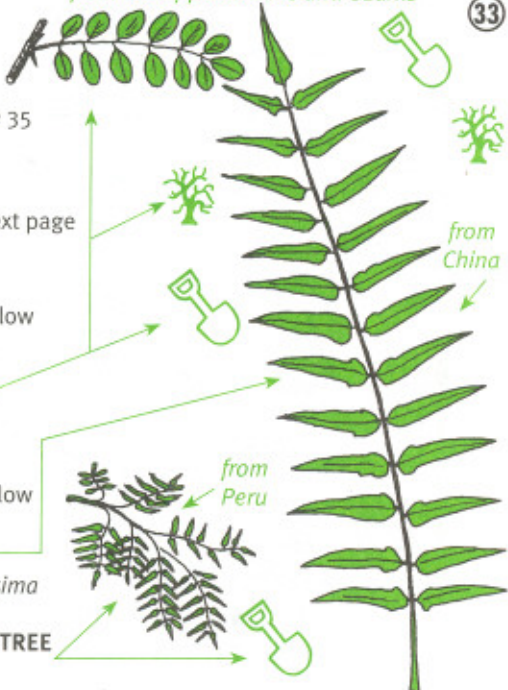
Ailanthus altissima

If they smell spicy, it is

PERUVIAN PEPPER TREE

Schinus molle

from the Appalachians and Ozarks



from China

from Peru

34

If the leaves are longer than ten inches
(or if it's a large tree), it is

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA BLACK WALNUT

Juglans californica var. *hindsii*




If they're shorter, it is

CALIFORNIA BLACK WALNUT

Juglans californica



If the leaflets all fan out from the same point, go to  below

If they don't, go to  next page

If the leaflets are jagged, it is **BOXELDER**
Acer negundo var. *californicum*

If not, go to  below

If the leaves have three leaflets, it is **HOP TREE**
Ptelea crenulata


If they have more, it is **CALIFORNIA BUCKEYE**
Aesculus californica



36

If the leaflets have saw-toothed margins, and tips tapered like this:



... or if there are small berries, it's an **ELDERBERRY**. Go to  below

If not, it's an **ASH**. Go to  next page

If the teeth on the margin run all the way to the tip of the leaflet; or if berries are red, or flower clusters are dome-shaped, it is

RED ELDERBERRY
Sambucus racemosa



If the tip of the leaflet is without teeth; or if berries are blue, or flower clusters flat, it is

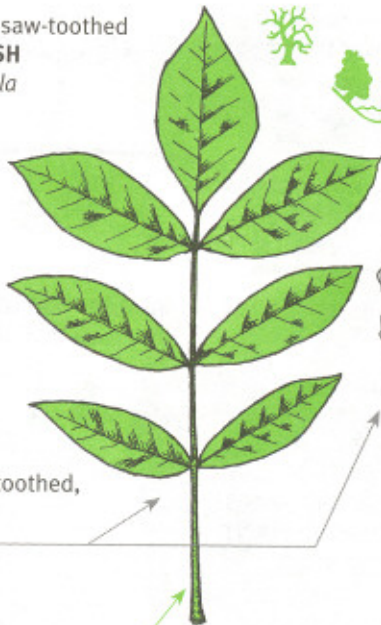
BLUE ELDERBERRY
Sambucus mexicana



If the leaflets have rounded tips with saw-toothed margins, it is

CALIFORNIA ASH

Fraxinus dipetala



If the tips are more pointed, not saw-toothed, it is either . . .

OREGON ASH

Fraxinus latifolia

. . . or, if it's a desert tree with smaller, more velvety leaves, it is

VELVET ASH

Fraxinus velutina




38

If the leaves are paired on opposite sides of the twig like this:
it's a **MAPLE**.

Go to  below

If they don't grow out opposite each other, go to

 next page

If the teeth are rounded, it is

If the leaf margin has pointed teeth, go to  below

If the leaves are three-lobed, it is

MOUNTAIN MAPLE

Acer glabrum

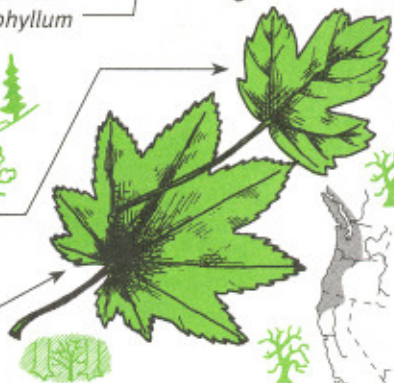
If there are five to seven lobes, it is


VINE MAPLE

Acer circinatum



BIG-LEAF MAPLE
Acer macrophyllum



If the leaves are lobed, go to  below

If leaves not lobed, go to  below

If the leaves are almost round, it is

WESTERN REDBUD

Cercis occidentalis

If they're narrower (or if you see blue flowers), it is

BLUE BLOSSOM

Ceanothus thyrsiflorus

If the leaves are over four inches wide, it is

WESTERN SYCAMORE

Platanus racemosa


If they're smaller, and fuzzy, it is

FLANNELBUSH, FREMONTIA


Fremontodendron californicum



40

If the leaf is lobed like this:
it's an **OAK**. Go to  below

If it's not lobed, go to  page 42

If lobes are pointed,
bristle tipped, go to  below

If lobes blunt, rounded
(may have single point
at end of lobe), go to  next page

If the lobes are shallow, it is
ORACLE OAK
Quercus x morehus

If they're deeper; or if the leaves are
over four inches long, it is

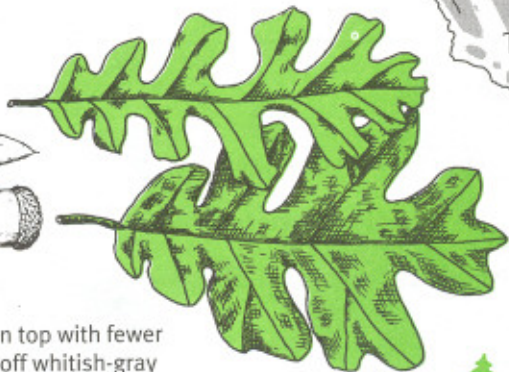
CALIFORNIA BLACK OAK
Quercus kelloggii



If the leaves have soft hairiness on the topsides, and 7 to 11 deeply cut lobes; and if the trunk bark is deeply checkered into squarish plates; or if there are long, hanging branches or long acorns, it is

VALLEY OAK, ROBLE

Quercus lobata



If the leaves are shiny on top with fewer lobes; or if you can rub off whitish-gray bark scales; or if there are stubby acorns, it is

OREGON OAK

Quercus garryana



42

If the leaf stems are over an inch long, go to



below

If they're shorter, go to



page 44

If the leaves flutter in a gentle breeze because their stems are flattened where they join the leaf like this



go to



next page

If the stems are not flattened that way, go to



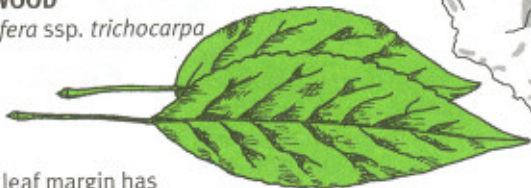
below

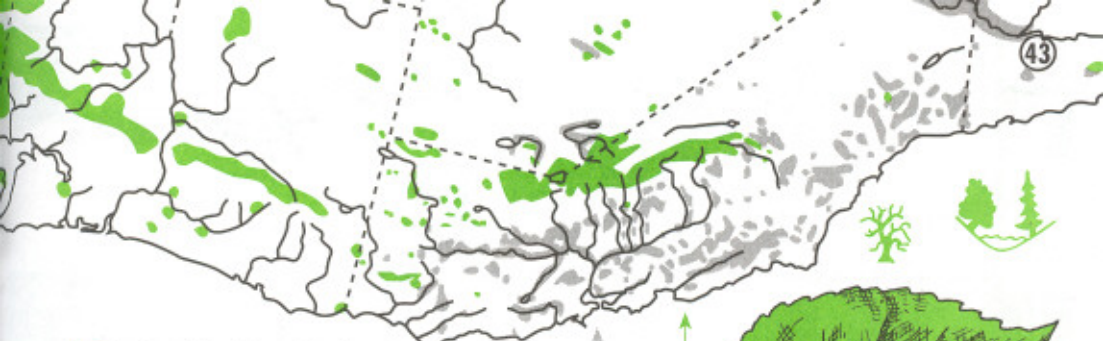
If there are sticky twigs and leaf margin has rounded teeth, it is

BLACK COTTONWOOD

Populus balsamifera ssp. *trichocarpa*

If there are shiny red twigs and leaf margin has sharp, outward-pointing teeth, it is **OREGON CRABAPPLE** (see p. 56)





If the leaf blade is wider than long,
it is

FREMONT COTTONWOOD
ALAMO

Populus fremontii ssp. *fremontii*

If it's almost round, it is

QUAKING ASPEN

Populus tremuloides



44

If the leaves grow in pairs opposite each other on the twig like this:



go to



below

If they don't grow out opposite each other, go to



below

If the leaf is wooly underneath, it is

WAVYLEAF SILKTASSEL

Garrya elliptica

If not, it is **MOUNTAIN DOGWOOD**

Cornus nuttallii

If the leaf margins are smooth curves, without teeth or notches, go to




next page

If the margins have teeth or notches, go to



next page



If the leaf has a strong, penetrating odor when you crush it, go to  below

If not, go to  next page

If the leaf is dark green with a blunt tip, it is
CALIFORNIA LAUREL
PEPPERWOOD
CALIFORNIA BAY
Umbellularia californica

If it's pale green with a sharp tip, it is
EUCALYPTUS
Eucalyptus sp.

If on the underside of the leaf the main veins run directly to the edge of the leaf, go to



page 47

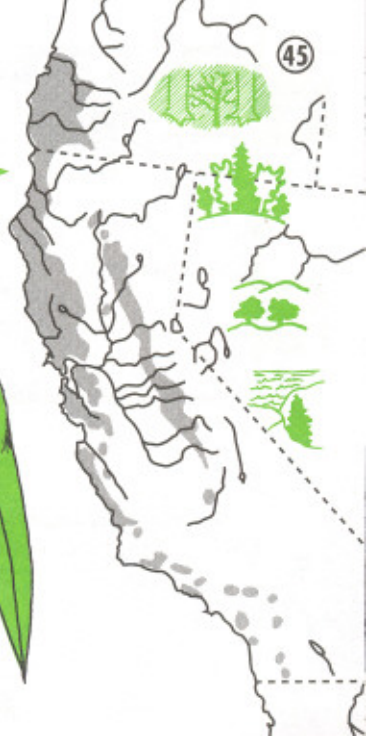
If the main veins branch into smaller veins without reaching the edge of the leaf, go to



page 52



from Australia



46

If there is conspicuous, smooth, red-brown bark on the branches, it is **MADRONE** (see page 57)




If not, go to  below

If the undersides of the leaves are golden-yellow, it is

GIANT CHINQUAPIN
Chrysolepis chrysophylla




If they're not yellow, go to  below

If the leaves are about an inch long, with margins rolled under, it is

CURL-LEAF MOUNTAIN-MAHOGANY
Cercocarpus ledifolius



If they're longer, go to  page 52





If the leaf blades are shorter than two inches, go to



below

If they're longer, go to



next page

If the leaves are oval with curved veins, it is
PACIFIC SERVICE-BERRY
Amelanchier alnifolia

If they're not oval, and the veins are straighter, go to



below

If the leaf has a wedge-shaped based and a velvety underside, it is
BIRCH-LEAF MOUNTAIN-MAHOGANY
Cercocarpus betuloides var. *betuloides*

If the leaf base is rounded, it is

WATER BIRCH
Betula occidentalis



47

48

If the leaf stem (or the whole leaf) is woolly or very hairy, go to



below



If not, go to



next page

If there's a stubby spine at the end of each main vein, it is



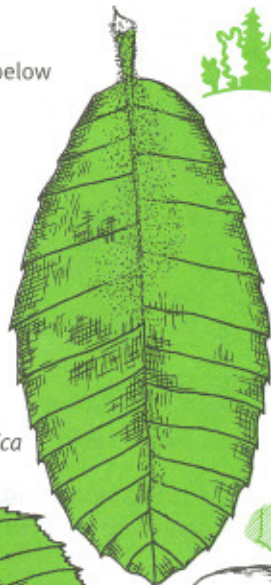
TAN OAK

Lithocarpus densiflorus

If there are many small, soft teeth on the margin, it is

HAZELNUT

Corylus cornuta var. californica



If the trunk has white bark, it is

PAPER BIRCH

Betula papyrifera



If the bark isn't white, go to



below



If the leaf margin has sharply pointed teeth and V-shaped notches, go to



below

If the teeth or notches are rounded, go to



page 51

If the tree has thorns, it is

HAWTHORN

Crataegus douglasii

If not, go to



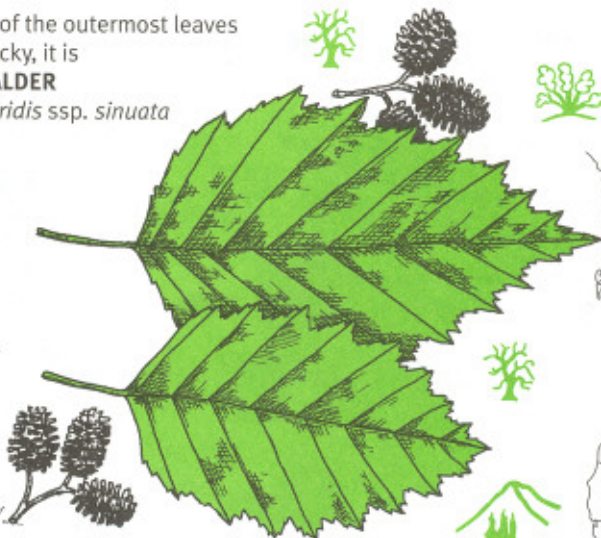
next page



If the undersides of the outermost leaves are glossy and sticky, it is

SITKA ALDER

Alnus viridis ssp. sinuata



If the undersides are dull, not sticky, it is

MOUNTAIN ALDER

Alnus incana ssp. tenuifolia

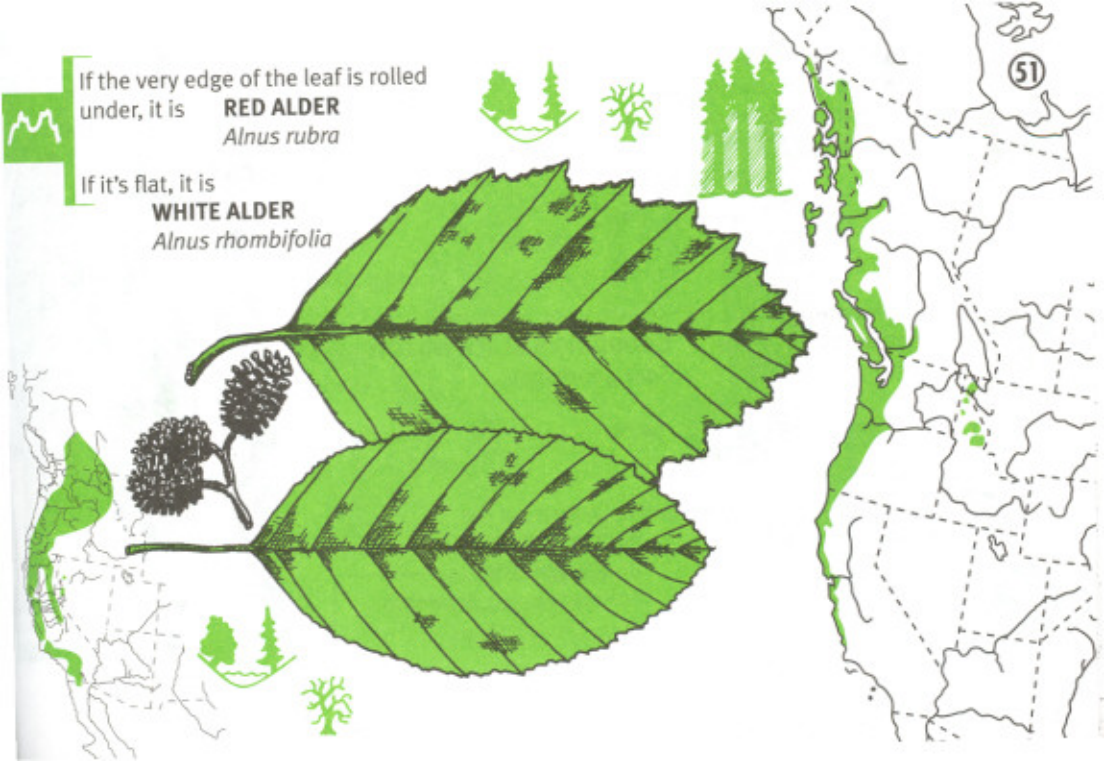


If the very edge of the leaf is rolled under, it is


RED ALDER
Alnus rubra

If it's flat, it is

WHITE ALDER
Alnus rhombifolia



52

If the leaves are narrow and bendy, with sharp, tapered tips, and with the widest portion toward the base rather than toward the tip, go to  below

If they're not like that, go to  next page

If the leaves are less than half an inch wide, and have saw-toothed margins, it is **GOODDING'S BLACK WILLOW**
Salix gooddingii

If they're wider, go to  below

If the leaves are yellow-green and have warts at the junction of leaf and stem, it is **PACIFIC WILLOW BLACK WILLOW**
Salix lucida ssp. lasiandra

If the leaves are blue-green, it is **RED WILLOW**
Salix laevigata

Note: Willows are so variable that even experts can't always identify them by leaves alone.





If the leaves are narrow and paddle-shaped—wider toward the tip, and with a wedge-shaped base like this:



go to  below

If they're some other shape, go to  page 55

If all leaves have easy-to-see teeth on their margins, go to  below

If the teeth are minute or sometimes absent, go to  next page

If the leaves are longer than two inches, it is **PACIFIC BAYBERRY WAX MYRTLE**
Morella californica

If they're shorter, it is **BITTER CHERRY**
Prunus emarginata



54

If the undersides of the leaves are covered with velvety, white hair, it is

SITKA WILLOW
SILKY WILLOW
Salix sitchensis



If not, go to



below

If the leaves have mostly rounded ends and narrowly tapered bases, it is

SCOULER WILLOW
Salix scouleriana



If they have more pointed ends, wider bases, and rolled-under margins, it is

ARROYO WILLOW
Salix lasiolepis



If the leaves have more than 25 teeth along their margins, go to



below

If there are fewer teeth or none at all, it's an **OAK**. Go to



page 58

If the leaf margin is scalloped, with stiff, almost spiny teeth, go to



below

If the teeth feel soft, and point toward the leaf tip, go to



next page

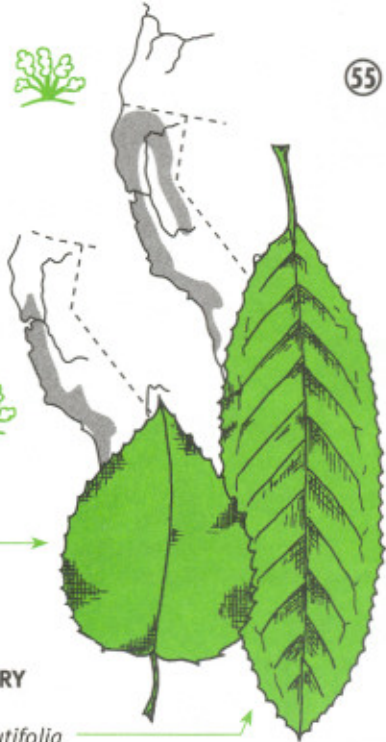
If the leaf blade is wider toward the base, it is **HOLLYLEAF CHERRY ISLAY**

Prunus ilicifolia ssp. *ilicifolia*

If it's widest in the middle, it is

CHRISTMAS BERRY TOYON

Heteromeles arbutifolia



56

If the leaf tips are pointed like this:



go to



below



If they're more rounded, go to



next page

If the teeth are small, and all about the same size, it is

WESTERN CHOKE-CHERRY

Prunus virginiana var. demissa

If they're different, go to



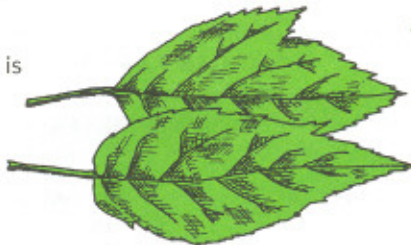
below

If there are thorns on the tree, it is **HAWTHORN** (see p. 49)

If not, it is

OREGON CRABAPPLE

Malus fusca



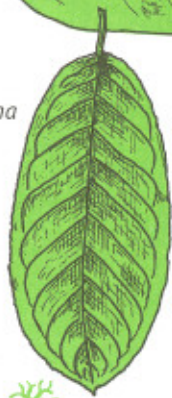


If there is conspicuous, smooth, red-brown bark on the branches, it is **PACIFIC MADRONE**
Arbutus menziesii

If not, go to  below

If the main veins turn inward from the leaf margin, it is **CASCARA**
Rhamnus purshiana

If they don't turn inward, it is **KLAMATH PLUM**
Prunus subcordata



58

If the leaves are dark green; or if the bark is blackish, not scaly or checkered, go to



If the leaves are light green or bluish; or if there is scaly or checkered bark, go to



below



next page

If the leaves are convex on top and have tufts of hair where the veins join on the undersides, it is

COAST LIVE OAK

Quercus agrifolia




If the leaves are flatter, hairless, and some are without spines, it is

INTERIOR LIVE OAK

Quercus wislizeni



If the leaves are shiny green on top and whitish below, it is **MAUL OAK, CANYON LIVE OAK**
Quercus chrysolepis

If they're dull blue-green on both sides, go to  below

If you're in northern California, it is **BLUE OAK**
Quercus douglasii

If you're in southern California, it is **ENGELMANN OAK***
Quercus engelmannii

Oak trees and their shrub relatives breed promiscuously. You'll often find hybrid forms with mixed traits of several species. Identifying them is beyond this book.

*Except at Joshua Tree National Monument where the usually shrubby *Q. turbinella* is tree-like.



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