



# How to Identify an Ash Tree



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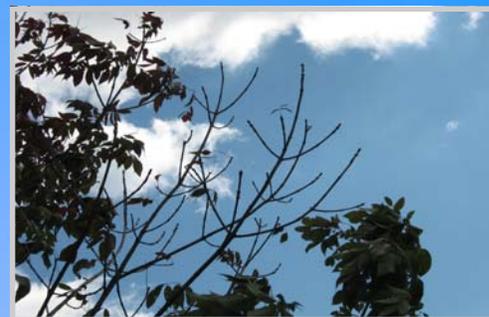
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Use the following criteria to identify an ash tree:

## Buds and Branches



Buds and branches are **located directly opposite of each other**. Not all branches will have an opposite mate because branches can die and fall off.



## Leaves



The **leaves are compound with 5-11 leaflets**. The boxelder is the only other oppositely branched tree with compound leaves, but it usually has only 3-5 leaflets. Unlike an ash, a boxelder has green twigs.



## Bark



**Mature trees** have a **diamond-shaped pattern** of furrows (*left*). **Younger trees** have **smoother bark** (*right*).



Get more information at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/environmental/pests.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/environmental/pests.htm).

For more information or to request this document in an alternate format, contact the Fairfax County Forest Pest Branch, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 518, Fairfax, Va. 22035, 703-324-5304, TTY 711.

Photos courtesy of Heather Finch, Fairfax County; Paul Wray, Iowa State University; Michigan Department of Agriculture; Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Recreation; David Cappaert, Michigan State University; and [www.bugwood.org](http://www.bugwood.org).