

Key to Trees in Lighthouse Park

Adapted from: Straley, G.B. and R.P. Harrison. 1987. An Illustrated Flora of the University Endowment Lands. Botanical Garden, Technical Bulletin #12. University of British Columbia, Vancouver B.C.

A key is a tool for identifying plants. Characteristics of the plant are described in couplets (e.g. 1a and 1b). Only one of the two statements is accurate. For each accurate description, follow the instructions indicated in the right column; continue to the next pair of couplets or note the taxonomy of the plant. Ultimately you will determine the genus and species of each plant using this key or by referring to other field guides. Remember to follow protocol when using scientific names of plants.

- 1a. Leaves needle or scale-like; plants woody, seeds in woody cone or berry-like structure..... 2
- 1b. Leaves broad and flat; plants herbaceous or woody; seeds enclosed in a fruit..... 7
 - 2a. Leaves scale-like, smallest branchlets flattened; seeds in cones.....Thuja plicata (western red cedar)
 - 2b. Leaves needle-like..... 3
 - 3a. Needles in bundles of 2 or 3, c. 3cm long, dark green and stiffPinus contorta var. contorta (shore pine)
 - 3b. Single needles attached to branchlets..... 4
 - 4a. Needles sharp pointed, with short stalk; single seed in a fleshy red berry-like structure..... Taxus brevifolia (western yew)
 - 4b. Seed-producing cones..... 5
 - 5a. Needles leave a persistent base on branch when shed so that branches rough to touch; leaves blunt, flat, lower surface whiter than upper ...Tsuga heterophylla (western hemlock)
 - 5b. Needles not leaving persistent base when shed; naked twigs smooth..... 6
 - 6. Branching irregular; terminal leaf buds sharp pointed; cones pendent, produced all over tree.....Pseudotsuga menziesii (Douglas-fir)
- 7a. Broadleaf evergreen tree, leaves simple, oval and leathery; bark reddish brown and peeling..... Arbutus menziesii (arbutus)
- 7b. Broad-leaf deciduous tree; leaves simple or individually attached to branchlets..... 8
 - 8a. Leaves not lobed; venation pinnate; flowers in catkins.....Alnus rubra (red alder)
 - 8b. Lobed leaves; lobes pointed; venation palmate; seed is samara..... 9
 - 9a. Deep lobes beyond middle of leaf.....Acer macrophyllum (bigleaf maple)
 - 9b. Leaves more shallowly lobed; shrubby small tree..... Acer circinatum (vine maple)