

SIMPLE TIPS FOR KNOWING THE MAJOR TREES IN WINTER
(NORTHERN MINNESOTA)

Field Interpretive Methods - T. Bates

- Start by remembering the mnemonic *M.A.Dog.Honeysuckle* which stands for *Maple Ash Dogwood Honeysuckle*. These are virtually the only native trees/shrubs which have an *OPPOSITE* branching pattern.
 - Maple has slender twigs with red buds (red or silver maple) or brown buds (sugar maple)
 - Ash has very stout twigs - the tree actually looks dead
 - If it is shrub-like
 - dogwood - has bright red branches
 - moose maple - has some pale red
 - honeysuckle - very thin branches and no red
- Look at the bark.
 - is it smooth and light colored? (birch & aspen)
 - if a greenish tint (quaking aspen, large toothed aspen, or balsam poplar)
 - if white and peely (white or paper birch)
 - is it smooth and dark brown with white dots (speckled alder)
- The others that you may encounter: red oak, basswood, ironwood, hazel, junberry, ?

Describe the buds from an American Basswood:

Describe the bark of an Ironwood (hop-hornbeam):

What does the bark of an Aspen taste like?:

What do the buds of a yellow birch taste like?

Where does black ash typically grow?

What is distinctive about speckled alder?

Describe the buds from a balsam poplar:

What is the difference between a fir and a spruce needle?