

Winter Twig ID sheet

Produced by DBRC for Green Minds



Species	Twig colour	Bud position	Bud shape	Bud colour	Scales	Notes
Alder	Yellow-brown to green	Alt	Boxing glove	Purplish	No	Orange lenticles. Woody cones and catkins
Ash	Grey to greenish	Opp	Large, squat	Matt black	No	Winged fruit often remain throughout winter
Beech	Red-brown	Spiral	Long, thin, pointed	Copper	Yes, many	Pale lenticles
Birch (silver)	Brown (hairless)	Opp	Small, pointed	Brown with green	Yes, few	Warty, pale lenticles
Blackthorn	Dark, silvery	Spiral	small	Brown	Few (very small)	Very large spikes, buds on spikes
Dogwood	Red	Opp	Thin, pointed	Brown (hairy)	-	Lots of very small pale spots
Elder	Grey	Opp	scruffy	Red-brown	No – young leaves	Prominent lenticles. Older twigs and branches corky and winged
Elm	Brown	Alt	Small, compact	Dark brown black	Yes, few	Pale lenticles. Older twigs and branches corky and winged
Field Maple	Light brown	Opp	Scruffy, often stalked	Red-brown with white hairs	Yes, few	Older twigs and branches corky and winged
Hawthorn	Grey to red-brown	Alt	Very small, blunt	Red	Yes, few	Pale lenticles. Buds at the base of the thorns
Hazel	Green to red-brown	Alt	Oval	Green with red to edge of scales	Yes, obvious	Hairy twigs, catkins
Hornbeam	Brown	Alt	Long, pointed	Pale brown, sometimes green	Yes, obvious	Buds lie close to stem, hairy
Horse Chestnut	Pale brown	Opp	Large, fat	Red-brown	Yes	Sticky buds, prominent leaf scars
Lime	Red to green	Alt	Round, blunt	Red-purple	Yes, few	Twigs very smooth
Oak	Grey-brown	Spiral	Fat round, blunt	Orange brown	Yes, obvious	Pale lenticles. Terminal cluster of buds
Rowan	Grey	Alt	Pointed, occasionally stalked	Purple-ish	Yes, hairy edges	
Spindle	Green	Opp	Pointed	Green with red edges to scales	Yes, obvious	Lie flat against twig, twig is flattened
Sweet chestnut	Red-brown	Alt	Fat, pointed	Red-brown	Yes, few	Twigs ridged with pale lenticles
Sycamore	Grey-brown	Opp	Small, pointed	Green	Yes, obvious	Pale lenticles, buds. Scales edged with pale hair