

Winter Tree Anatomy Walk

Notes

Tree Form Terms

- Central leader**
The main stem of the tree from which other branches develop. In most cases, it is the trunk
- Coppicing**
The practice of cutting young trees down to the ground level to promote sprouting.
- Crown**
The branches, twigs and leaves that extend from the trunk or main stems. Measurements of crowns are important in quantifying and qualifying plant health, growth stage, and efficiency.
- Deciduous**
Trees that lose their leaves at the end of the growing season; non-evergreen.
- Decurrent**
Trees with several to many lateral branches that compete with the central stem for dominance resulting in a spherical crown.
- Dormant**
When a tree is not growing, as in during winter.
- Drip line**
The ground under the edge of a tree's canopy where water shed falls from the tree.
- Excurrent**
Trees with this form have a strong central stem and pyramidal shape. Lateral branches rarely compete for dominance. Most conifers and a few hardwoods, such as sweetgum and tuliptree, have excurrent forms.
- Multiple stemmed**
Trees having more than one stem form the base
- Pollarding**
The removal of all of the previous year's growth, resulting in a flush of slender shoots and branches.
- Scaffold**
Permanent branches originating from the trunk that make up the major branching or framework of the tree.
- Vertical branch spacing**
Distribution of branches up and down the trunk of a tree.

About Branches and Limbs

- Branch axil**
The angle formed where a branch joins another branch or stem of a woody plant.
- Branch bark ridge**
A ridge of bark that forms in a branch crotch and partially around the stem resulting from the growth of the stem and branch tissues against one another.
- Branch collar**
A "shoulder" or bulge formed at the base of a branch by the annual production of overlapping layers of branch and stem tissues.
- Callus**
Healed woundwood.
- Candle**
Refers to early spring growth of pine shoots before needle expansion.
- Crotch**
The angle developed between two connecting branches.
- Included bark**
Bark that is enclosed between branches with narrow angles of attachment, forming a wedge between the branches.
- Sucker**
A vigorous shoot originating from root or stem tissue below ground.
- Water sprout**
A vigorous shoot arising from the trunk or older branches.
- Woundwood**
Specialized bark produced as a response to wounding.

Notes

Bark Types

- Blocky** - Small square or rectangular blocks
- Cauliflorous** - Flowers and/or fruits that grow from the inside of the bark
- Exfoliating** - Bark periodically falls off the tree in layers
- Fibrous shredding** - Loosely attached fiber-like portions
- Platy** - plate-like, similar to blocky, with bigger patches
- Ridge and furrow** - Furrows can be shallow or deep,
- Scaly or flakey** - Sometimes the top of ridges flake
- Sheeted** - Large loose sheets
- Smooth** - Smooth bark can be roughed up by lichens, a symbiotic partnership between algae and fungi.