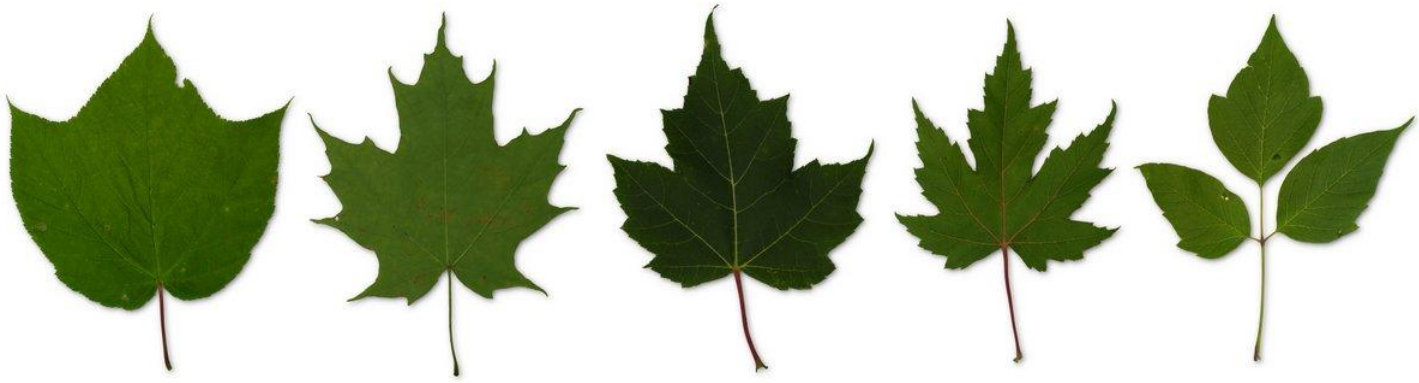
Vermont Tree Names And Their Origins

An etymological dictionary of the scientific and common names

of the native & introduced species of trees found in Vermont



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Introduction: finding meaning in tree names

In my early days as a naturalist here in Vermont, a friend and I drove down to Massachusetts to run in a race. We arrived at his family's home late at night, and over dessert his mom told me how she'd been tapping the trees in the woods behind her house for decades. She wasn't sure, but thought it was a grove of swamp maples she'd tapping for the syrup that sweetened her pancakes. She wanted a tree ID tour of the backyard and so the next morning we went outside and got to see the maples. I felt bad when I told her that all these years she'd be tapping red, not swamp, maples.

When I got back to Vermont I did a little research on swamp maple - I had just assumed it to be silver maple, *Acer saccharinum*. As it turns out, we were both right as swamp maple can refer to the red maples (*A. rubrum*) in her swampy woodland in Massachusetts as much as it can refer to the silver maples (*A. saccharinum*) in the floodplains along the Winooski River here in Vermont. Had we settled on using scientific names we could have avoided the whole confusion!

Part of the ambiguity around common names is that trees have a rather strong aversion to following the neat and tidy boundaries we draw across the land. Their geographic ranges span numerous languages and regional dialects. And these ranges are anything but fixed in place and time. We greatly altered the home ranges of trees as we've domesticated and intentionally transported them from one country to another through the millennia. Most are gracious guests in new lands, while others escape and run rampant. However they arrive in their new homeland (and behave upon their arrival), their names travel with them. And as new tongues try to pronounce old words, the names are changed. Zeus, the father of the gods, becomes Jovis (Jupiter, or Jovis Pater, father of the gods, to the Romans). Add that to *glans* for nut, and eventually we get *Juglans* for the walnut genus and not *Zeusglans*.

In other cases, a name for a tree might sound similar to a word in the native tongue of the colonizers, invaders, explorers, or missionaries. So sorbus becomes serviceberry, wican (for pliable) becomes witch-hazel and even willow. Other trees are just called after the land they are imported from (e.g. larch, cherry) or where they're first described (*Acer pensylvanicum*, *Picea mariana*). And it is often the case that there are multiple names for a tree in the same location, with the names following the tree's function. A white oak - *Quercus alba* - is stave oak to a cooper, tanner's oak to a leatherworker, and stone oak to a woodworker. And if you drove down to the lumberyard today you could find red birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*) with its rich, deep red heartwood, but out in the woods with a forester and you'd be talking about yellow birch's striking yellow bark.

The common names for trees in one location were often mapped onto the trees in a new place. So when the first Europeans arrived in North America, they saw a land that was at once strange but also oddly reminiscent of the Old World. The abundant New World congenerics of species they had left behind in Europe took the same names. The white aspen, or the abele tree, of Europe (*Populas alba*) was similar enough to our big-toothed aspen (*P. grandidentata*) with its white and wooly new growth on twigs and leaves. Big-toothed aspen was then historically white poplar or larger American abele. Other trees merely appeared similar to evolutionarily unrelated Old World species. The overlapping scale-like needles of *Thuja occidentalis* appeared similar enough to those of the unrelated old world cedars, *Cedrus* spp., that it became white-cedar.

While colonists were learning the trees of North America (and sometimes learning the names from the indigenous peoples - tamarack or hackmatack), early American botanists were working to catalog and classify the flora and fauna of North America. Linnaeus's system for classifying species was far from universal and in its early days there was considerable disagreement in how to classify different species. Shagbark hickory, *Carya ovata*, was shagbark walnut and categorized variously as *Hicoria alba*, *Juglans alba*, and even *Nux juglans alba Virginensis.* (the last was before Linnaeus's binomial system became the standard for taxonomy). Even today there's confusion about which scientific name to use. Staghorn sumac was initially described as two species (*Rhus typhina* and *R. hirta*). Later taxonomists universally agreed that they were the same species and the older name, *R. typhina*, becomes the valid name (though *R. hirta* seems a hard name to shake and a 2015 book on Vermont's trees incorrectly uses this name).

All this is to say that it can be quite a challenge to determine which common names refer to which species and where these names came from in the first place. And the answers aren't always satisfying. For example, there seems to be no trace of why pin cherry, a name that only appeared in the mid-1800s and replaced bird cherry as the primary common name, is even called pin cherry.

Could it be that the fruits look like pin cushions, which also were developed around the same time sewing stick pins first appear? Richard Feynman describes science as a satisfactory philosophy of ignorance. But there's nothing satisfactory here about all this missing data!

There is another side to this story, though. As we codify and cement the names of things through the scientific lens, certain common names are winning out and supplanting regional and indigenous names for species. A tour through the names of trees is becoming more like driving the fast food-lined interstate than local deli general store-punctuated rural back roads. When we lose these words, so too do we lose the vernacular understanding of and connection to place. Here I translate the meaning behind these names, but I also present the names of trees that have been mostly lost to time, whether due to a growing disconnect to the natural world (many names, like shoepeg maple, reflect an intimate understanding of the usage of trees) or the systematic genocide of indigenous peoples and their languages and cultures. There is no doubt that the Abenaki had unique names for each of our tree species before the ravages of colonization, but we are left with a language broken with so few people speaking it that UNESCO classifies it as endangered (source). Fortunately, there is work being done to restore lost pieces of this language and to preserve the language with new learners (https://www.ndakinnacenter.org/events/).

I have done my best here to accurately record the names and their origins and meanings for Vermont's trees. Like me, you will be disappointed in some of the entries in the dictionary, as many of the primary sources for names and their origins are lost to time. We are left piecing together the writings and words of naturalists, explorers, and denizens of the natural world who sought to name those more-than-human neighbors of theirs. I've tried with this reference to decipher as best I can the scientific names of our trees. Translations are often interpretations as the exact translation is rarely available. As a result, there are occasionally conflicting interpretations as to the precise origin and meaning of many common or scientific names (see, for example, black tupelo's other common name, beetledoe). I've tried to weave my own translations into the wonderful work that has already been dedicated to the subject. The first part is a glossary of generic and specific names of most of our wild and naturalized species of trees found in Vermont. Following the glossary, I've listed the current scientific name, common name, Abenaki name (when available), and a translation/etymology for these names when possible. Enjoy!

~ Teage

Common Suffixes

The following common suffixes are defined in the section below rather than in each entry.

-acea, -aceum, -aceus: resembling, pertaining to, having the nature of
-aca, -acum, -acus: resembling, pertaining to, having the nature of
-arum, -ae: feminine possessive, used in eponyms, or of a place
-ago: resembling, pertaining to, having the nature of
-ale, -alis: resembling, pertaining to, having the nature of
-ana, -anum, -anus: belonging, pertaining to, of a geographic location
-aria, -arium, -arius: pertaining to; one connected to or engaged with
-ata, -atum, -atus: having, provided with
-cola: inhabitant, dweller of
-culus, -ulum, -ulus: diminutive suffix
-ella, -ellum, -ellus,: diminutive suffix, small one, somewhat
-ense, -ensis: belonging, pertaining to, originating in, of a geographic location
-ena, -enum, -enus: relating or belonging to
-escens: becoming or slightly
-estris: belonging to, living in
-eus, -ea, -eum: having the quality of
-i, -ii: masculine possessive, used in eponyms
-ica, -icum, -icus: having the form or character of
-idia, -idion, -idium, -idius: smaller or less than
-ifer: bearer
-illa, -illum, -illus: smaller, less than, or somewhat
-ina, -inum, -inus: belonging or pertaining to
-isca, -iscum, -iscus: smaller or less than
-issima: superlative ending
-ister, -istes, -istis, -istor, -istria: one who does an action
-ites: one who does an action
-itus: makes an adjective an adverb
-ius, -ia, -ium: common suffix for nouns derived from verbs, often denoting smaller
-odes: similar to
-ola, -olum, -olus: smaller or less than, somewhat
-oria, -orium, -orius: pertaining to; one connected to or engaged with
-osus: full of, having
-otes: one who does an action
-ous: full of, having
-ter, -tes, -tis, -tor, -tria: one who does an action
-ula, -ulum, -ulus: smaller or less than
-una, -unum, -unus: belonging or pertaining to

Glossary of Generic & Specific Names

Abbreviations:

F: French
L: Latin
G: Greek
PIE: proto-Indo-European

~ A ~

abies: *abeo* (L): rising one (for tall tree or ship), alternatively *aei* (G): always + *bios* (G) life, for always alive or evergreen
acer: Unclear, possibly from *acro* (G): sharp, top, point
alba: *albus* (L): white
alleghaniensis: *alleghany*: Allegheny Mountains (south of Pennsylvania Allegheny is often spelled Alleghany), generic toponym + *-ensis*
alnifolia: *alnus*: genus of alders + folium (L): leaf
alnus: *el-* (PIE): red or brown (as with elm) giving both "alder" and the Latin "Alnus"
alternifolia: *alternis* (L): alternate + *folium* (L): leaf
amelanchier: *amelanco* (F): little apple (apple in Greek is μήλο)
americana: *america*: America, generic toponym + *-anus*

~ B ~

balsamea: *balsam* (Semitic): gummy or resinous aromatic healing balm, in reference to the balm of Gilead (referenced in the bible). Balsam is used to refer generally to resinous plants.
banksiana: *banks*: after Sir Joseph Banks, and English botanist (1743-1820) + *-ana*
betula: *betula* (L): birch, derived from the Gaulish word, *betu* (as in bitumen), which means tar
bicolor: *bi* (L): two + *color* (L): color

~ C ~

canadensis: *canada*: Canada, generic toponym + *-ensis*
caroliniana: *carolina*: Carolina (the state), generic toponym + *-ana*
carpinus: *carpinus* (L): the hornbeam (may be derived from PIE, *kar*, meaning hard)
carya: *carya* (G): nut (related to kernel)
cathartica: *cathartis* (G): purgative
celtis: *celtis* (L): Pliny's name for the unrelated lotus tree (*Ziziphus lotus*), which is similar to the lote tree, or European hackberry (*C. australis*)
cinerea: *cinereus* (L): ash-colored
cordifolia: *cordi* (L): heart + *folium* (L): leaves
cordiformis: *cordi* (L): heart + *formis* (L): form or shape.
cornus: *cornus* (L): hard as in horn (cf unicorn), though this is debated
crataegus: *krato* (G): strong, for the wood. Some sources suggest kratos is combined here with *-acis* (G): thorn for the hard woody thorns

~ D ~

decidua: *decidua* (L): falling off, deciduous
deltoides: *delta* (G): Greek letter, Δ, triangular + *-oides* (G): likeness

~ F ~

fagus: *fagus* (L) name for beech, which stems from the Greek, *phagein*, which means to eat; it's also the Celtic god of the beech tree
frangula: *frangulus* (L) fragile
fraxinus: *phraxo* (G): obstruction or fence, though this is likely from use of the wood to make spears + -inus

~ G ~

glauca: *glauco* (G): gray, bluish gray
grandidentata: *grandis* (L): large + *denti* (L): tooth + *-ata*
grandifolia: *grandis* (L): large + *folium* (L): leaf

~ H ~

hamamelis: *hama* (G): together + *melon* (G): apple or fruit, as the fruits grow in tight, nearly fused clusters

~ J ~

juglans: *Juglans* (Roman): "Jovis glans", meaning Jupiter's nut
juniperus: Unclear, possibly from *junio* (L): young + *parere* (L): to produce/bear, alluding to its evergreen habit

~ L ~

laricina: *larix* (L): larch + *-ina*
larix: *larix* (L): common name for the genus
lenta: *lentus* (L): flexible, pliant

~ M ~

macrocarpa: *macro* (G): large + *carpus* (G): fruit
mariana: *mary*: after Maryland, geographic toponym + *-ana*
morus: *morus* (L): unclear, possibly from mor, the old name for the tree (morbeam is an archaic name for mulberries), alternatively, could be

from the Latin "mor" for late, in reference to the late budding of the buds, or the Celtic "mor" for black, in reference to the fruits of many mulberries

~ N ~

negundo: *nirgundi* (Sanskrit): for the Chinese chaste tree (*Vitex negundo*).
nigra: *niger* (L): black
Nyssa: *Nyssa* (G): in Greek mythology, the Nysiades were water nymphs who lived in Nysa, which was also the birthplace of Dionysus. Members of the genus are often found in wetlands.

~ O ~

occidentalis: *occidental* (L): of the west + *-alis*
ostrya: *ostrya* (G): word for a hardwood tree, derived from *osto* (G): bone (reference to the tree's exceptionally hard wood)
ovata: *ovum* (L): egg + *-ata*

~ P ~

papyrifera: *papyrus* (G): paper + *fero* (L): bearing
pennsylvanica: pennsylvania: *Pennsylvania*, geographic toponym + *-icus*
pensylvanica: pennsylvania: *Pennsylvania*, geographic toponym + *-ica*
pensylvanicum: pennsylvania: *Pennsylvania*, geographic toponym + *-icum*
picea: *pix* (L): pitch
pinus: *pinus* (L): name for the genus, likely a cognate with pitch, in reference to the resinous trunks
platanoides: *platanus* (G): genus for sycamores, in reference to their wide, flat leaves + *-oides* (G): likeness.
platanus: *platys* (G): flattened + *-anus*
populifolia: *populus*: genus for aspens/poplars + *folium* (L): leaf
populus: of unknown origin and meaning, possibly from *ptelea* (G): elm
prunus: *prunus* (L): plum
pseudoacacia: *pseudo* (G): false + *acacia* after the acacia trees of Africa, which have similar leaves and thorns; locust taken from the true locust, or carob tree (*Ceratonia siliqua*).

~ Q ~

quercus: *quercus* (L): name for the oak, not entirely clear what its origins are; possibly Celtic for "beautiful tree"

~ R ~

resinosa: *resinosa* (L): resinous
rhamnus: *rhamnos* (G): generic word for thorn bush
rhus: of unknown origin
rigida: *rigida* (L): stiff, rigid
robinia: *Robin* (G): after the French botanists Jean Robin (1550-1629) who Linnaeus attributed with introducing black locust seeds to Europe + *-ia* (L): noun suffix to Latinize a word;
rubens: *ruber*: red (L)
rubra: *ruber*: red (L)
rubrum: *ruber*: red (L)
rugosa: *rugosus* (L): wrinkled

~ S ~

saccharinum: *saccharon* (G): sugar + -inum
saccharum: *saccharon* (G): sugar
salix: *salix* (G): possibly from the Greek, σαλεύω, to stir or sway
serotina: *serotina* (L): late
sorbus: *sorbus*: fruit of the true, from the true service tree, Sorbus domestica. Service and sarvis corrupted from sorbus.
spicatum: *spica* (L): spike + *-atum*
strobus: *strobus* (G): cone
sylvatica: *sylva*: woods/forest (L) + *-ticus*
sylvestris: *sylva* (L): woods, forest + *-estris*
syringa: *Syringa* (G) pipe. The syringa is a Greek wind instrument similar to a flute, and Ovid relates the story from Greek mythology of Pan chasing the nymph, Syrinx, down to the water where the nymphs transformed her into a lilac to protect her.

~ T ~

taxus: *taxon* (G): bow (though alternate etymologies suggest a link to either toxic - the whole tree, save the red aril, is toxic - or taxus - a reference to the flat arrangement of the needles on the branch)
thuja: *thuja* (G): ancient Greek name for arar, a morphologically similar conifer found in the western Mediterranean
tilia: *teil* (F): name for the tree, Tilia the Latin form. In Greek, πτελέᾱ means "elm-tree"
tremuloides: *tremula* (L): shake, tremble + *-oides* (G): likeness
tsuga: *tsuga* (Japanese) name for the genus, possibly a cognate of taiga
typhina: *typhina* (L): velvety

~ U ~

ulmus: *ulmus* (L): elm, which possibly means red or brown

~ V ~

velutina: *velutinus* (L): velvety
virginiana: *virginia*: Virginia (the state), geographic toponym + *-ana*
vulgaris: *vulgaris* (L): common or commonplace

Tree names and their origins

A brief note on Abenaki names: The Abenaki were subjected to decades of persistent and intentional persecution and genocide by colonists. The Abenaki, who have inhabited this land for 10,000 years, were forced to significantly alter, mask, and abandon many of their core cultural practices to survive. The result is the loss of many of the words that expressed a deep and rich connection to the world of trees. Work is being done to preserve and promote the Abenaki language - which is designated as a critically endangered language. Sadly, what is lost is lost. I've included here the names of trees that have been preserved. The absence of terms is in no way a reflection of ignorance of these trees. You can find more information on the Western Abenaki language here: http://westernabenaki.com/

***Scientific*, common name (Abenaki)**	**Etymology and origins of names**
***Abies balsamea*, balsam fir (kokokh8akw)** Balsam tree, balsam spruce, hemlock or Hudson's fir; blister or fir pine, Canadian turpentine, Balm-of-Gilead.	*abeo* (L): rising one (for tall tree or ship), alternatively *aei* (G): always + *bios* (G) life, for always alive or evergreen; + *balsam* (Semitic): gummy or resinous aromatic healing balm, in reference to the balm of Gilead (referenced in the bible). Balsam is used to refer generally to resinous plants. Blister pine after the resinous blisters on the trunk. Fir likely from PIE for oak or oak forest, and lends its roots to "forested" (link).
***ACER*, MAPLES**	*Acer* (L): possibly from the Greek, *acro*, for top or point (as in acme, acro, etc.), reference to sharp pointed lobes of the leaves. Maple is the Old English word for the tree.
***A. negundo*, Boxelder** Ash-leaf, cut-leaf, Manitoba, red river, or sugar maple; black or water ash.	*negundo* from Sanskrit word, *nirgundi*, for the Chinese chaste tree (*Vitex negundo*). Origin of boxelder is less clear. Box may refer to similarities to boxwood, *Buxus sempervirens*, or the boxtree; cut-leaf and ash or elder for the pinnately compound leaves.
***A. pensylvanicum*, Striped Maple** Bush, goose-foot, northern, or Pennsylvania maple; false or striped dogwood, moosewood, mountain alder, whistlewood.	*Pennsylvania* + *-icum* (Latin): from, connected to; moosewood because moose favor the tree as winter brows; whistlewood for use in making whistles (link); and goosefoot for the leaves' similarity to a goose's foot.
***A. platanoides*, Norway maple** None.	*platanoides* from *platanus* (G): genus for sycamores, in reference to their wide, flat leaves + *-oides* (G): likeness. There are a number of named cultivars of Norway maple, including Scwedler's, Crimson King, Emerald Queen, and many more (source).
***A. rubrum*, red maple** Hard, knotty, pale-flower red, red-flower, scarlet, shoe peg, silver-leaf, soft, swamp, thick-leaf, water, or white maple; whistlewood.	*ruber* (L): red. The finest shoe pegs, which are used to attach the sole to the upper part of the shoe and were reportedly made from red maple sapwood - the heartwood was discarded (source). White after the clean white sapwood, soft after its soft wood. To the south it is more commonly called swamp maple. Like striped and mountain maples, used to make whistles.
***A. saccharinum*, silver maple** Creek, curled, Drummond's, hard, red, river, rock, silver, silver-leaf, soft, swamp, water, Weir's, or white maple; sugar or sweet tree.	*saccharon* (G): sugar + *-inum* (L): suffix for 'pertaining to'. Silver for the white undersides of the leaves, soft for the wood, and river or swamp for its affinity for floodplains.
***A. saccharum*, sugar maple (sen8mozi)** Black, hard, rock, rough, or sweet maple; sugar tree.	*saccharon* (G): sugar. Rock and hard from its wood.

***A. spicatum*, mountain maple** Bush, dock-mockie, goose-foot, low, moose, spiked, striped, swamp, or water maple; elkwood, false or striped dogwood; moosewood, whistlewood.	*spica* (L): spiked + *-atum* (L): suffix denoting 'having', so has spikes, referring to the spike (actually a raceme) of flowers. Many of the synonyms for mountain maple are those used for striped maple (goosefoot maple, moosewood, whistlewood, dock-mackie and even striped maple), but most names are historical in usage and you'll likely only ever hear it referred to as mountain maple.
***Alnus rugosa*, speckled alder (wdopi)** Gray, hazel, swamp, hoary, or tag alder; synonym: *A. rugosa*.	*el-* (PIE): red or brown (as with elm) giving both "alder" and the latin "*Alnus*" + *incana* (L): gray, hoary + *rugosus* (L): wrinkled. Speckled for the white lenticels on the trunk, hazel for the similarity of the leaves to hazel (*Corylus*), gray for the color of mature trunk, and swamp for its predilection towards swampy habitats. Tag is less clear; "tag alder" is an older name for North American alders, and tag may refer to an old usage of the word for young shee, referencing its wooly twigs (link), or it could be a reference to its distribution in the taiga
***Amelanchier spp.*, serviceberry (8mwaimen)** Juneberry, pigeon-berry, sarvice, sarvis, saskatoon, serviceberry, shadberry, shadblow, shadbush, sugar-plum.	Amelanco (F): little apple (apple in Greek is μήλο); Fruits ripen in June, when shad are running. Service and sarvis corrupted from sorbus, from the true service tree, *Sorbus domestica*. Service as a name for trees is far older than the American colonies, and while it's a convenient story that the tree's name refers to the timing of flowering overlapping with the ground thawing and the first services, this is not true. Saskatoon the Cree word for the tree.
***BETULA*, BIRCHES (WINS)**	*betula* (L) birch, derived from the Gaulish word, betu (as in bitumen), which means tar; Pliny wrote that the Gauls extract the tar from birch bark;
***B. alleghaniensis*, yellow birch** Gray, silver, swamp, or tall birch.	*alleghany*: Allegheny Mountains (south of Pennsylvania Allegheny is often spelled Alleghany) + *-ensis* (L): of that location. Yellow for its bark. Gray and silver perhaps for the twigs or the very old, mature bark, swamp for its affinity for swamps, and tall as it's the tallest of our native birches.
***B. cordifolia*, heart-leaved birch** None.	*cordi* (L) heart + *folium* (L) leaves after the leaves, which are distinctly more heart-shaped than paper birch.
***B. lenta* sweet birch** Black, cherry, or spice birch; mountain-mahogany.	*lentus* (L): flexible, pliant. Black from its dark bark; sweet and spice are references to the strong scent of the twigs when scratched; cherry due to its resemblance to the young bark of cherries (*Prunus* spp.). In the 1800s it was occasionally listed in North and South Carolina as mahogany birch or mountain mahogany (e.g. link), as its heartwood ages to rich dark mahogany color, but nobody calls it that anymore.
***B. papyrifera*, paper birch (maskwamozi)** White or canoe birch; spool-wood.	*papyrus* (G): paper + *fero* (L): bearing. Spool wood as it was the dominant wood used for making spools (near the turn of the 19th century, Maine, which was the primary producer of spools, annually turned nearly 17 million board feet into spools: link); canoe as its bark has been used to skin canoes (link)
***B. populifolia*, gray birch** Aspen-, poplar-leaf, paper, old field, or poverty birch	*Populus* is the genus for aspens/poplars + *-folium* (L) leaf; the specific epithet as well as aspen-leaf and poplar-leaf allude to the resemblance of gray birch leaves to aspen leaves (possibly particularly referencing the slightly flattened petioles). Old field and poverty refer to its tendency to colonize abandoned anthropogenic habitats that are nutrient poor. It shares its other common name with the very similar and more common *B. papyrifera*.
***Carpinus caroliniana*, musclewood** American hornbeam, ironwood, blue beech, water beech.	*Carpinus* (L): the hornbeam (may be derived from proto-Indo-European, *kar*, meaning hard) + *Carolina* (the state) + *-ana* (L): suffix for "belonging to." Musclewood from the sinewy, fluted trunk. Beech a reference to its smooth gray bark, water for its tendency to grow in wetter habitats, blue for the bluish

	tint to its bark. Other common names (“horn” or “iron”) reference the hardness of its wood.
***CARYA*, HICKORIES (PAGIMEN)**	*Carya* (G): nut (related to kernel), initially denoting walnuts. Hickory from pawcohiccora, which was either a Powatan (indigenous peoples of Virginia) or Algonquian that referred to a milk made from pounding walnuts and mixing with water (link).
***C. cordiformis*, bitternut** Swamp hickory, heartnut, and possibly confused in records with pignut hickory.	*cordi* (L): heart + *formis* (L) form or shape. Bitternut, unsurprisingly, from the bitterness of the nuts. Heartnut because the nuts in cross-section are somewhat heart-shaped (as can be the leaf scars). Swamp hickory because, at least in the southeastern part of its range, it is more restricted to overflow bottomlands (areas of floodplains that stay inundated for longer). In *The Commercial Hickories*, published by the Forest Service in 1910, “the term "bitternut" is almost entirely a book name, and is for the most part confined to botanies and to students of botany. This gives rise to much confusion" (link).
***C. ovata*, shagbark hickory** Ashleaf shagbark, red-heart, scaly-bark, shellbark, upland white, or white hickory; sweet walnut, kingnut, little-nut shagbark.	*ovum* (L): egg + *-ata* (L): having. The variety of common names attest to its cultural and commercial importance as well as confusion with the related *C. laciniosa* (whose common names also include shellbark, kingnut, and shagbark hickory). Ashleaf for its compound leaves, red-heart for the reddish brown heartwood. Shell from the old English, *scell*, which means scale, in reference to the bark.
***Celtis occidentalis*, hackberry** American, northern, or rough-leaf hackberry; beaverwood, bastard or false elm; hag or hedgeberry; hoop or rim ash; juniper tree, one berry, nettlewood, sugarberry.	*Celtis* (L): Pliny’s name for the unrelated lotus tree (*Ziziphus lotus*), which is similar to the lote tree, or European hackberry (*C. australis*) + *occidentalis* (L): of the west. Hackberry is the common name for *C. australis*, and is derived from hagberry (*Prunus padus*), hag, or heg, likely a corruption of hedge (link). Bastard and false elm both refer to the similarity of its leaves to elms (*Celtis* was formerly in the elm family, Ulmaceae). Sugarberry is another common name (though more often refers to the more southern *C. laevigata*), and references its sweet fruits, which look like the fruits of hagberry and the fruit-like cones of juniper. Beaver-wood as it grows along riparian corridors where beavers happily feed on it. While it doesn’t sting, its leaves look similar to those of the nettles (*Urtica* spp.). The names hoop- and rim-ash appear in Bulletins from the 19th century. Its wood was used in fashioning the hoops on barrels and its wood resembles that of ash (and is occasionally sold labeled as ash).
***Cornus alternifolia*, alternate-leaf dogwood** Alternate-leaf cornel; blue, female Virginia, pagoda, or purple dogwood; green osier, pigeon-berry, umbrella tree.	*cornus* (L): hard as in horn (cf unicorn), though this is debated; *alternis* (L): alternate + *folium* (L): leaf, from the uniquely alternate branching pattern of this dogwood. Older sources (e.g. source, source) say that both the genus and the common name, dogwood, are in reference to the hardness of the wood. European species (e.g. Cornus mas and Cornus sanguinaria) were used by butchers for skewers and daggers - "whereof butchers make their pricks" (source), and are called skewerwood, dagwood, and cornel or cornelian cherry. Other sources suggest dog, literally refers to dog, suggesting the berries are only fit for a dog (source). Purple after the deep purple on the twigs, pagoda refers to the horizontal, tiered branches of the shrub (a common growth pattern for understory trees), osier is a name for willows but is often applied to dogwoods, which also grow in wet areas.
***Crataegus spp.*, Hawthorns** Haw, haw tree, thorn-apple, white service trees.	*crato* (G): strong, for the wood. Some sources suggest *kratos* is combined here with *-acis* (G): thorn for the hard woody thorns. Haw likely from hedge. Service from sorb, as the fruits are similar to those of *Sorbus domestica*.
***Fagus grandifolia*, American beech (wajwimizi)** Black, common, red, rusty-leaved or stone beech.	*fagus* is the Latin name for beech, which stems from the Greek, *phagein*, which means to eat; it’s also the Celtic god of the beech tree; *grandis* (L): large +

	folium (L): leaf. American distinguishes it from the closely related European beech, *Fagus sylvatica*. Don Peattie writes that the earliest written characters were likely carved in Sanskrit on strips of bark from a beech (likely European beech). Book comes from *boc*, the Anglo-Saxon for letter or character, which comes from *beece*, the Anglo-Saxon word for Beech. Rusty-leaved beech was a name applied to *F. ferruginea*, a defunct species that has been subsumed into *F. grandifolia*.
***Frangula alnifolia*, glossy buckthorn** syn. *Frangula alnus*, Alder, alder-leaf, columnar, fen, low, or tall hedge buckthorn; European alder.	*frangulus* (L) fragile + *alnus* (L): alder + *folium* (L): leaf. Glossy buckthorn lacks spines and so thorn is a reference to another *Rhamnus* species or genus (e.g. *Hippophae* or *Sideroxylon*) whose thorns bear more resemblance to a buck's antlers (see also, staghorn sumac). Alder for its affinity to wetlands.
***FRAXINUS*, ASHES (MAHLAKWS - ###)**	*phraxo* (G): obstruction or fence, though this is likely from use of the wood to make spears + *-inus* (L): suffix denoting "belonging to." Ash is simply the Old English name for the tree.
***Fraxinus americana*, white ash** Biltmore, Carolina, elder-leaf, smallseed white, or walnut-leaf ash.	America + *-ana* (L) suffix denoting "belonging to." Pinnately compound leaves similar to those of elderberry and walnut. Some sources treat the Biltmore ash, *Fraxinus biltmoreana*, as a separate species.
***Fraxinus nigra,* black ash** Basket, brown, hoop, swamp, or elder-leaf ash.	*nigra* (L): black. Basket, hoop after the wood's use in making baskets. Pinnately compound leaves similar to those of elderberry.
***Fraxinus pennsylvanica*, green ash** Black, blue, Darlington's, field, sharp-key, red, river, swamp, water, or yellow ash.	Pennsylvania + *-icum* (L): from, connected to. Key is another name for the samaras, or fruits, of the ashes, which are pointed on green ash. Darlington after American botanist, William Darlington (1782-1863)
***Hamamelis virginiana*, witch-hazel** Big-leaf, common, or winter witch-hazel; pistachio, snapping hazel, spotted or striped alder; tobacco-wood, water seeker, winterbloom.	*Hama* (G): together + *melon* (G): apple or fruit, as the fruits grow in tight, nearly fused clusters; Virginia + *-ana* (L): from, after where it was first described. Witch, from the Latin wican (like wicker), to bend, referring to the pliant branches (applied to other trees/shrubs like wych elm, witch-hobble, witch-alder). Hazel, after the similar fruits of the English hazels, *Corylus*, which were also used as divining or dowsing rod (hence water seeker). Snapping after the fruits, which snap open, shooting seeds a great distance.
***JUGLANS*, WALNUTS**	*Juglans* from the old Roman "*Jovis glans*", meaning Jupiter's nut (from Scripture Botany). Walnut from *walh* (Old German) for foreigner, akin to Gaul or Welsh, referring to the introduction of the genus to Germany.
***J. cinerea*, butternut (pag8nozi)** Lemon or white walnut; oil nut.	*cinereus* (L): ash-colored. Butternut is a reference to the oily nut. Butternut was also a term for confederate soldiers whose uniforms were dyed with butternut bark. Lemon from the fruit's resemblance to a lemon.
***J. nigra*, black walnut (pagimizi)** Eastern black walnut, large oilnut, milk hickory, round, black, Virginia walnut.	*nigra* (L): black.
***Juniperus virginiana*, eastern redcedar** American savin(e); Carolina, red, aromatic, or stinking cedar; pencil cedar or pencilwood; Cypress leaf savine, Juniper bush/tree, red juniper, baton rouge.	The etymology of Juniper is unclear. Possibly from *junio* (L): young + *parere* (L): to produce/bear, alluding to its evergreen habit; whatever its etymology, it gives its name to Jennifer and Genevieve. *Virginia* (the state) + *-ana* (L): suffix for "belonging to." *Savin* is the old French for herb, but here refers to its similarity to the old world J. sabina. Aromatic or stinking from the strong scent emitted by all parts of the plant. Pencilwood for its use in making pencils (though largely replaced by incense-cedar, *Calocedrus decurrens*). Cedar from its similarity to the unrelated *Cedrus*, an old world genus in the pine family

	(pinaceae). Red for both its red bark and intensely red heartwood. *Baton rouge*, or “red stick,” was the French colonists’ name for the tree (unrelated to the etymology of the city).
***LARIX,* LARCHES**	*Larix* (L): common name for the genus. Larch is after the ancient town of Larignum. Marcus Vitruvius Pollio relates the story of Cesar attacking a log stronghold in 58 BC. Cesar attempted to light the tower on fire but the tower resisted damage and Cesar was impressed with the strength and resilience of the tree, which became known as Larigna.
***L. decidua*, European larch** Common larch, false manna.	*decidua* (L): falling off (reference to the deciduous needles). Manna generally refers to any sweet plant (here to the sweet resinous exudate). Whatever the true manna plant referenced in the bible and Quran, the name false manna suggests this is not it.
***L. laricina*, tamarack (akemantak)** American black, black, or red larch; cypress or cypress tree; hackmack or hackmatack; juniper cypress, juniper, tamarisk.	*larix*: larch + *-ina* (L): belonging or pertaining to, with *laricina* denoting a resemblance to the European larch, *Larix decidua*. Tamarack is possibly a French variant of the Algonquin *hackmatack* and Abenaki *akemantak*, translating to tree used for snowshoes.
***Morus alba*, white mulberry** European, many-stem, Russian, silkworm, or white mulberry.	*Morus* (L): unclear, possibly from mor, the old name for the tree (morbeam is an archaic name for mulberries), alternatively, could be from the Latin "mor" for late, in reference to the late budding of the buds, or the Celtic "mor" for black, in reference to the fruits of many mulberries (source); *albi* (L): white, likely after the whitish buds, though many cultivars have white to pinkish fruits. Widely cultivated for feeding silkworms, many-stem after its ability to sprout prodigious branches after trunk is cut or damaged. "Mul" is derived from the older "Mor."
***Nyssa sylvatica*, black tupelo** Common or water tupelo; battledoe, old-man’s-beard, Highland blackgum, stinkwood; black, sour, water, or yellow gum; gum tree, swamp hornbeam, pepperidge, beetlebung, hornpipe, snag tree, hornbeam, hornbine, horn-pine.	*Nyssa* (G): in Greek mythology, the Nysiades were water nymphs who lived in Nysa, which was also the birthplace of Dionysus. Members of the genus are often found in wetlands; *sylva* (L): woods, forest + *-tica* (L): suffix denoting "belong to." Tupelo from the Creek words *ito*: tree + *upilwa*: swamp. Gum, though it is not resinous or gummy (and bears no resemblance to sweet gum). Pepperidge of unknown meaning. Stink and sour after the fruits, which taste and smell bad. Beetlebung unclear, possible after *beetle* (Old English): to beat, after its use as a wooden mallet to pound bungs into place, with battledoe possibly of similar origin; a battledore was a tool used to beat clothes when cleaning: *beetle* + -ador (think matador). From here, battledore eventually was used to refer to the racket used in badminton. Another source suggests a transposal from “bottle-arsed” to battledoe, bottle-arsed referring to the widened butt or base of the tree (source).
***Ostrya virginiana*, hophornbeam** Hardhack, hackmatack, ironwood, leverwood, hophornbean.	*ostrya* (G) word for a hardwood tree derived from *osto* (G): bone (reference to the tree’s exceptionally hard wood); + *Virginia* (the state) *-ana* (L): suffix for “belonging to.” Most of its common names reference the extremely dense, strong wood and its uses. Hop is a reference to the hop-like fruits, horn for its hardness, and beam for tree. Hackmatack is potentially a misapplication of the Abenaki word, meaning “snowshoe conifer,” which likely refers to tamarack.
***PICEA*, SPRUCES (MSKASK)**	*Pix* (L): pitch. Spruce was initially the spruce fir, and spruce itself comes from Prussia, so the Prussian fir was shortened to spruce.
***Picea abies*, Norway spruce** Abies, Burgundy pitch, common, Norway spruce, or spruce fir; galipot or gallpot; Himalayan pine, Norway spruce, Spruce-top, possibly Sapin (F).	*abies*: all the conifers share common names (spruce, fir, pine), Abies here references the genus for true firs. Galipot refers to the impure resin of turpentine derived from exudate from several species of pine. Spruce-top, similar to pine-top, referring to the new growth (or tips) used to flavor whiskey

	in the 1800s (link).
***Picea glauca*, white spruce (msazesso)** Alberta, Black Hills, black, cat, pine, Newfoundland, single, skunk, white or spruce; pine tops.	*glauco* (G): gray, bluish gray, in reference to the white needles. Crushed needles smell foul, like cat or skunk urine. Pine tops, similar to spruce top(s), referring to the new growth (or tips) used to flavor whiskey in the 1800s (link).
***Picea mariana*, black spruce** Black, blue, cat, double or white spruce; spruce gum tree; Austrian, spruce or yew pine; Juniper or Juniper tree	*mary*: after Maryland, where it was first described + *-ana* (L): belonging, pertaining to, of a geographic location.
***Picea rubens*, red spruce** Pitch pine, spruce, spruce fir, he-balsam	*ruber* (L): red, in reference to the red pubescence on the young twigs. "He-balsam" is the nickname for blister-free red spruce, the partner to "She-balsam," the Fraser fir (which could be milked by bursting the blisters on the trunk).
***PINUS*, PINES (KOWA)**	*Pinus* (L): name for the genus, both this and “pine” likely a cognate with pitch, in reference to the resinous trunks
***Pinus banksiana*, jack pine** Bank’s, Banksia, black, black-jack, gray, Hudson Bay, Labrador, rock, scrub, shore, or shrub pine,unlucky tree	*banks*: after Sir Joseph Banks, and English botanist (1743-1820) + *-ana* (L): belonging, pertaining to, of a geographic location. One source refers to the tree as "unlucky especially for women to stand under this tree" (source).
***Pinus resinosa*, red pine (pasaakw)** Canadian, hard, Norway, pitch, or yellow pine.	*resinosa* (L): resinous. Norway after Scandinavian immigrants who saw similarities to the Scots pine, native to their homeland.
***Pinus rigida*, pitch pine** Black, common three-leaf Virginia, northern pitch, sap, or torch pine.	*rigida* (L): refers to both the stiff bracts of the cones and the short, stiff needles. Pitch after early colonists' use in producing turpentine and pitch for sealing boats. The pitch (and derivative products) is highly flammable.
***Pinus strobus*, eastern white pine (kowa)** Apple, deal, New England, northern, pumpkin, sapling, soft, spruce, Weymouth, or yellow pine; Pin du Lord Weymouth (F).	*strobus* (G): cone. Deal is an archaic unit of wood (a board 12-14′ long x 11″ wide). Pumpkin for the orange color of the wood.
***Pinus sylvestris*, Scots pine** Pinaster, pine wool, red or yellow deal; riga, Scotch or wild pine; Scotch fir.	*sylva* (L): woods, forest + *-estris* (L): belonging to, living in. Pine wool is the term for the textile made from the needles. Deal is an archaic unit of wood (a board 12-14′ long x 11″ wide). Pinaster was Pliny's name for the tree; also the name for Wild Pine, *P. pinaster*.
***Platanus occidentalis*, American sycamore** American plane, buttonball, buttonwood, cotton tree, false sycamore, monkey balls, palm tree, porcupine-eggs, Virginia maple, water beech.	*platys* (G): planar, for the broad, flat leaves and wide-spreading branches; *occidental* (L): west + *-alis* (L): suffix denoting "Pertaining to." Sycamore a portmanteau of sukon (fig) and mor (mulberry), common name for the African fig-tree, *Ficus sycomorus*. Fruit clusters are spikey, round balls, hence, buttonball, monkey balls, and porcupine eggs. Beech for its smooth grayish bark (when young).
POPULUS, ASPENS (WESSAGAKW)	*Populus* of unknown origin and meaning, possibly from *ptelea* (G): elm.
***Populus alba*, white aspen** Abbey, Abel, Abele tree, arbell, aspen poplar, awbel, Bolle's poplar, Dutch beech, great aspen, poplar tree, rattler tree, silver poplar, silver popple, silver-leaf poplar, white asp or aspen, white-bark, whiteleaf.	*albi* (L): Silver, abelle (Old French), white, in reference to the white down that covers much of the new growth and leaves. Aspen, from asp, the PIE name for the genus, + -en, a suffix making a noun into an adjective (similar to linden). Beech likely from similarly smooth gray bark.

***Populus balsamea*, balsam poplar** Balm of Gilead, balsam tree, Canadian, Carolina, Ontario, rough-bark, Simon's poplar; Gilead or leaf buds.	*balsam* (Semitic): gummy or resinous aromatic healing balm, in reference to the balm of Gilead (referenced in the bible). Balsam is used to refer generally to resinous plants. Rough-bark as the mature bark furrows, unlike quaking aspen.
***Populus deltoides*, eastern cottonwood** Alamo; berry-bearing, black Italian, Carolina, eastern, water, or white poplar; big or common cottonwood.	*delta* (G): Greek letter, Δ, triangular + *-oides* (G): likeness, in reference to the triangular leaves. Berry-bearing for the big, round green flower buds that appear in the spring.
***Populus grandidentata*, big-toothed aspen** American large aspen, great aspen, larger American abele, large-tooth aspen, white poplar.	*grandis* (L): large + *denti* (L): tooth + *-ata* (L): suffix denoting "Having." in reference to the big teeth on the margins of the leaves. Abele, which means white, is an older name for white aspen, *P. alba*.
***Populus tremuloides*, quaking aspen** American asp, espen, haspen, American poplar, aspen popple, ever-trembling, golden qualing, mountain ash, mountain asp, mountain aspen, quiverleaf, tow-heads, trembling aspen.	*tremula* (L): shake, tremble + *-oides* (G): likeness, in reference to its similarity to the European trembling aspen, *Populus tremula*. Like other aspens, the leaf petioles are flattened, which makes the leaves flutter even in a gentle breeze, hence trembling, quiver. Golden after fall-foliage.
***PRUNUS*, CHERRIES**	*Prunus* (L): plum; cherry (G), ancient word for the tree, after the ancient city Cerasus (modern day Giresun) where the Romans first imported the tree from; could also be from *karshu* (Akkadian): stone.
***Prunus pensylvanica*, pin cherry** Bird, common wild bird, fire, pigeon, pin, red, or wild pin cherry.	*-ica* (L): from, connected to. Cherry from the ancient Greek word (κεράσι) for the tree. Fire for its affinity for colonizing burned landscapes, bird, pigeon, etc, after *P. avium* and *P. padus*; the fruits are astringent and unpalatable, but birds are undeterred by the fruit's astringency. Pin is tricky to, um, pin down. Could be in reference to the scraggly branches that remain "pinned to the tree" (as with the etymology for pin-oak: source).
***Prunus serotina*, black cherry (skogimen)** Black choke, chokecherry, cabinet, rum, whisky, or wild black cherry.	*serotina* (L): late, in reference to the flowers opening later. Wood used in cabinets, fruits, though bitter (hence choke) used for flavoring rum and whiskey, black after either the dark fruits or bark.
***Prunus virginiana*, chokecherry (adbimen**)** Cabinet cherry, clustered black cherry, common chokecherry, rum cherry, Virginia bird-cherry, wild black cherry, wild cherr, red chokecherry.	Virginia (the state) *-ana* (L): suffix denoting “belonging to.” Choke in reference to the strong bitter and astringent taste of the fruits. Red for the purplish red fruits and fall foliage.
***QUERCUS*, OAKS**	*quercus* (L): name for the oak, not entirely clear what its origins are; possibly Celtic for “beautiful tree”
***Quercus alba*, white oak (wachilmezi)** Common American or mountain white oak; stave, stone, or tanner’s oak.	*albi* (L): white, in reference to the whitish bark. Stave from its use in barrel-making, tanner's from use of bark for tanning hides.
***Quercus bicolor*, swamp white oak** Swamp or white swamp oak.	*bi* (L): two + *color* (L): color, in reference to the distinctly different colors on the leaves’ upper and lower surfaces.
***Quercus macrocarpa*, bur oak** Blue, bur, mossy overcup, mossy-cup, overcup, or scrub oak; white-cup.	*macro* (G): large + *carpus* (G): fruit. Common names mostly refer to the shaggy or mossy cap on the acorn.
***Quercus rubra*, northern red oak** Black, butter, champion, Spanish, water red, or willow oak.	*ruber* (L): red. Oak is derived from the Old English for trees from the genus.

***Quercus velutina*, black oak** Black bark, Dyer's, false red, gigantic black, female, Missouri black, scarlet, spotted, yellow, or yellow-bark oak; querceton or quercitron.	*velutinus* (L): velvety. The common names refer to either the very dark outer bark or to the brilliant orange yellow inner bark. Quercitron itself is the name for the yellow dye derived from the inner bark.
***Rhamnus cathartica*, Common buckthorn** Cathartic or purging buckthorn; purging berries, hartshorn, rain-berry thorn, rhineberry, waythorn.	*rhamnos* (G): generic word for thorn bush + *-cathartis* (G): purgative, reference to the vomit inducing fruits. Buckthorn is presumably a reference to another *Rhamnus* species or genus (e.g. *Hippophae* or *Sideroxylon*) whose thorns bear more resemblance to a buck's antlers (see also, staghorn sumac). Its other name, hart's thorn, comes from the British term for a male red deer.
***Rhus typhina*, staghorn sumac (sal8n)** Hairy, velvet, or Chinese sumac; vinegar tree.	Rhus of unknown origin (the best source I found came up empty) + typhina (L): velvety; Linnaeus wrote of the species: "Ramis hirtis uti typhi cervini" (p. 14 of Linneus' Centuria Plantarum: link), which translates roughly to "the branch is rough, as when the stag is in velvet." The common name, sumac, denotes dark red in old French (by way of Latin by way of Aramaic), referring here to the fall foliage; staghorn refers to the crooked, velvety twigs that resemble a male deer's (stag) antlers in form and texture. Vinegar tree from the berries used in making vinegar more sour.
***Robinia pseudoacacia*, black locust** false or bastard acacia; common, green, honey, pea-flower, post, red-flowering, yellow, or white locust; locus or locust tree; locust tree of Virginia, silver-chain, sweet or sweet-smelling locust, treenail, white honey flower, Whya tree.	*Robin* (G): after the French botanists Jean Robin (1550-1629) who Linnaeus attributed with introducing black locust seeds to Europe + *-ia* (L): noun suffix to Latinize a word; *pseudo* (G): false + *acacia* after the acacia trees of Africa, which have similar leaves and thorns; locust taken from the true locust, or carob tree (*Ceratonia siliqua*). Black potentially for its seeds and yellow after its fall foliage color.
***Salix nigra*, black willow (kanozas**)** Brittle-joint, Champlian, pussy, puzzle, rough American, scythe-leaf, or swamp willow; willow catkins.	*Salix* (G): possibly from the Greek, σαλεύω, to stir or sway, as the wispy branches are wont to do; *nigra* (L): black. Willow related to wican (L) or wicker (see witch-hazel), which means to bend or be pliant. Brittle-joint as the new twigs are frequently shed in the fall or detach easily. Pussy willow after the fuzzy catkin's resemblance to a cat's fur.
***Sorbus americana*, American mountain-ash (mozmezi)** American rown tree, American service tree, dogberry, Elder-leaf mountain-ash, elder-leaf sumach, life-of-man, missey-moose, quickbeam, round tree (from rowan), service tree, wine tree, witchwood.	America + *-ana* (L) suffix denoting "belonging to." Pinnately compound leaves similar to those of elderberry and sumac. Rowan for red or ruddy, after the fruits. Missey-moose after the Abenaki for the tree, *mozmezi*.
***Syringa vulgaris*, common lilac** Blue pipe, blue-ash, Persian elder, Persian jasmine, pipe tree, pipe-privets, Roman willow, Spanish ash, white ash.	*Syringa* (G) pipe. The syringa is a Greek wind instrument similar to a flute, and Ovid relates the story from Greek mythology of Pan chasing the nymph, Syrinx, down to the water where the nymphs transformed her into a lilac to protect her. The thick pith in the stems can be hollowed to make pipes; *vulgaris* (L): common or commonplace. It's geographic names indicate it was both widespread and important culturally.
***Taxus canadensis*, American yew** American, Canadian, dwarf or yew; creeping or ground hemlock; shinwood, Juniper or Juniper tree.	*Taxon* (G): bow (though alternate etymologies suggest a link to either toxic - the whole tree, save the red aril, is toxic - or taxus - a reference to the flat arrangement of the needles on the branch) + *canad*: Canada + *-ensis* (L): of that location. Yew from the proto-Indo European word for the common yew (*Taxus baccata*).

***Thuja occidentalis*, northern white-cedar (m8l8dakw)** Common or eastern arborvitae; eastern, American, or swamp cedar.	*Thuja* (G): ancient Greek name for arar, a morphologically similar conifer found in the western Mediterranean, which is also in cupressaceae + *-occidentalis* (L): of the west. Its common names, arborvitae and white cedar are used for other species (*Thuja plicata*). *Arborvitae*, latin for "tree of life," comes from its medicinal properties. Cedar from its similarity to the unrelated *Cedrus*, an old world genus in the pine family (pinaceae).
***Tilia americana*, basswood (wigbimizi)** American linden, lime tree, spoonwood, whistlewood, whitewood (Bois blanc) beetree (link).	*Tilia*: *teil* is French name for the tree, *Tilia* a latin form. In Greek, *πτελέᾱ* means "elm-tree" (link) + America + -ana (L) suffix denoting n. Bass is from bast, which refers to fibers taken from the innerbark. Lime (entirely unrelated to the citrus) derives from a Middle English alteration of lind, lind from proto-Indo-European word for pliable, which also gave rise to liana (woody climbing vines). Spoonwood for its use in carving; whistlewood is applied to a number of trees whose bark easily slide off the wood and are used to make whistles; whitewood, unsurprisingly, for its clean, white wood (Bois blanc, the French colonist word for the tree, translates directly to whitewood); beetree for the affinity of bees to the genus and its use in making honey.
***Tsuga canadensis*, eastern hemlock (sedi)** Canadian or common hemlock; ewe tree; hemlock pine, pitch, or spruce.	*Tsuga*: Japanese name for the genus, possibly a cognate of taiga; *canada* + *-ensis* (L): of that location. Hemlock is a derived term, a reference to the similar scent of its crushed needles to the completely unrelated poison and water hemlocks, *Conium* and *Cicuta*, respectively. It seems like at some point it switched from an adjective (modifying pine, pitch, or spruce) to a noun. Ewe tree for its similarity to the yew. Pine and spruce also reference its similarity to the other conifers and indication of the genericness of those terms. Pitch reference to its resinous wounds. *Pix*, a cognate of pitch, is the old genus for hemlocks.
***Ulmus americana*, American elm (anibi)** American rough-leaf, common, rock, small-leaf, swamp, water, or white elm.	*Ulmus* (L): elm, which possibly means red or brown; America + *-ana* (L) suffix denoting "belonging to." Rock after its rot-resistant wood, which was nearly as hard as hickory. White after its light colored bark. Often grows in wet habitats, hence swamp or water.

Resources

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BOOKS

- Etymonline.com
- Google Books: I also rely heavily on using Google's Book Search to find historical documents with older names
- iNaturalist - a great resource for searching for common names
- ITIS.gov - the most accurate and up-to-date resource for scientific names
- Ngram Viewer - shows frequency of word usage in books
- Western Abenaki Dictionary