Merion Botanical Park Fact Sheet



Leaflet

Activity sheets for identifying evergreens are available online or from the info boxes. Next month learn do identify cones of conifers.

✤ What is still green? - Evergreen plants in the park.

	Inkberry
A CANADA	(Ilex glabra)
	A native shrub. Most cultivars get 3-5 ft tall and wide, but the species can get larger. It tolerates conditions from dry to wet in both full sun and shade. The berries on this holly are almost black and only produced if the male and female plants are nearby. By the stream at the post office end of the park,
	and just north of the bridge at Latches Ln.
	American holly
CARLES V	(Ilex opaca)
	A native tree that can reach 50 ft tall, but usually only 15-30 ft tall. Birds and mammals consume its red berries. Larval source for butterflies. This native plant has dull yellow-green leaves while the exotic holly species have shiny leaves. <i>Throughout the park, along the stream.</i>
	Deodar cedar
* 7	(Cedrus deodara)
	This beautiful tree has silver-blue needles and a somewhat weeping habit. It is native to the western Himalayas. The name derives from the <u>Sanskrit</u> term <i>devadāru</i> , which means <i>"wood of the gods"</i> , a compound of <i>deva</i> "god" and <i>dāru</i> "wood, tree".
	Tree is not far from the post office entrance.

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	Atlas cedar (Cedrus atlantica)
	Native to the Atlas Mountains in Algeria and Marocco. A large evergreen tree that has many cultivars with blueish needles. It tolerates hot and dry conditions better than most other conifers.
AT THE REAL	<i>In the lawn between the upper stepping stones and the sidewalk.</i>
	Common chinafir
	(Cunninghamia lanceolata)
	This tree is native to China, Vietnam and Laos. It has a somewhat tiered habit and a conical shape. It can grow up to 50 ft. Leaves are pointed, brown small cones develop in 7-8 months.
	<i>Near the Latches Ln. entrance.</i>
30.4	Japanese cedar 2
144	(Cryptomeria japonica)
	This evergreen can grow up to 150 ft tall in its native Japan, but in the US it is usually 30-50 ft. It has a very slender, pyramidal shape. The "Yoshino" cultivar grows faster than the species and stays greener in the winter. <i>Next to the Chinafir near the Latches entrance.</i>
	Eastern white pine (Pinus strobus)
	The largest conifer of the Northeast, it grows 75- 100 ft, or taller. Needles are borne in clusters of 5. It is very valuable for wildlife providing food and shelter for birds and mammals. Unfortunately, it is prone to winter damage. Both south and north of the bridge by the path.

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Canadian hemlock (Tsuga canadensis) Pyramidal tree that can grow up to 100 ft tall. Its short rounded needles are dark green with silvery undersides. Branches were used to make brooms, twigs for making tea. Tannin from its bark was used for treating leather. It is valuable for birds and butterflies. Near the pines between the stepping stones and the bridge.
Lacebark pine (Pinus bungeana) This pine is native to China and can grow up to 70 ft tall. Needles are in 3-s, instead of 5-s like on the white pine. Easy to recognize from the multicolored peeling bark- which is visible only at the base of the tree on our young specimen. Small tree by Merion Rd. at City Ave. end.
Southern magnolia (Magnolia grandiflora) This native midsize tree has thick, shiny, dark green leaves. Black seeds are covered in red coating and develop in a pine cone-like structure. Squirrels, white-footed mice, turkeys, quails and songbirds digest the seed coating and spread the seeds. South end of the park, near the stream.
Holly (Ilex sp.) A collection of various hollies at the south end of the park as the path curves near the stream. These shrubs and trees have shiny dark green leaves. Leaf size and shape varies by cultivar.



Evergreen identification by leaves/needles

Trees and shrubs can either keep their leaves through the winter (evergreen) or lose all their leaves in the fall (deciduous). The native sweetbay magnolia is semi-evergreen that loses its leaves if the winter is harsh. Some cultivars of sweetbay magnolia are more reliably evergreen.

Evergreens can be either conifers (like pines and spruces) or broadleaf evergreens (like some magnolias, hollies etc.).

You can use our key (on separate sheet) to identify species in the park. Below are pictures of some of our conifers. Some of them, like larch, golden larch, bald cypress and dawn redwood are deciduous trees that lose all their leaves in the fall.



http://www.rogerstreesandshrubs.com

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