Yellow poplar (Liriodendron tulipifera)

The white-poplar, or “poplar,” is a medium-sized tree that is found throughout the eastern United States. It is a member of the Populus family and is one of the most abundant hardwood trees in the eastern United States. The wood of the poplar is soft and lightweight, and it is used for a variety of purposes. The poplar is also known for its straight-grained wood, which makes it ideal for furniture and paneling. The poplar’s sapwood is light-colored, and its heartwood is a light brown color. The poplar’s leaves are large and opposite, and they turn yellow and orange in the fall. The poplar’s flowers are small and white, and they are followed by small, round fruits that contain one seed. The poplar’s bark is light gray and scaly, and it is shed in rings. The poplar is a fast-growing tree, and it is often used as a street tree.

Sugar maple (Acer saccharum)

The sugar maple is a medium-sized tree that is found throughout the eastern United States. It is a member of the maple family and is one of the most abundant hardwood trees in the eastern United States. The wood of the sugar maple is a light brown color, and it is used for a variety of purposes. The sugar maple is also known for its straight-grained wood, which makes it ideal for furniture and paneling. The sugar maple’s sapwood is light-colored, and its heartwood is a light brown color. The sugar maple’s leaves are large and opposite, and they turn yellow and orange in the fall. The sugar maple’s flowers are small and white, and they are followed by small, round fruits that contain one seed. The sugar maple’s bark is light gray and scaly, and it is shed in rings. The sugar maple is a fast-growing tree, and it is often used as a street tree.

White ash (Fraxinus americana)

The white ash is a medium-sized tree that is found throughout the eastern United States. It is a member of the olive family and is one of the most abundant hardwood trees in the eastern United States. The wood of the white ash is a light brown color, and it is used for a variety of purposes. The white ash is also known for its straight-grained wood, which makes it ideal for furniture and paneling. The white ash’s sapwood is light-colored, and its heartwood is a light brown color. The white ash’s leaves are large and opposite, and they turn yellow and orange in the fall. The white ash’s flowers are small and white, and they are followed by small, round fruits that contain one seed. The white ash’s bark is light gray and scaly, and it is shed in rings. The white ash is a fast-growing tree, and it is often used as a street tree.

Hickory (Carya spp.)

The hickory is a medium-sized tree that is found throughout the eastern United States. It is a member of the walnut family and is one of the most abundant hardwood trees in the eastern United States. The wood of the hickory is a light brown color, and it is used for a variety of purposes. The hickory is also known for its straight-grained wood, which makes it ideal for furniture and paneling. The hickory’s sapwood is light-colored, and its heartwood is a light brown color. The hickory’s leaves are large and opposite, and they turn yellow and orange in the fall. The hickory’s flowers are small and white, and they are followed by small, round fruits that contain one seed. The hickory’s bark is light gray and scaly, and it is shed in rings. The hickory is a fast-growing tree, and it is often used as a street tree.

American beech (Fagus grandifolia)

The American beech is a medium-sized tree that is found throughout the eastern United States. It is a member of the maple family and is one of the most abundant hardwood trees in the eastern United States. The wood of the American beech is a light brown color, and it is used for a variety of purposes. The American beech is also known for its straight-grained wood, which makes it ideal for furniture and paneling. The American beech’s sapwood is light-colored, and its heartwood is a light brown color. The American beech’s leaves are large and opposite, and they turn yellow and orange in the fall. The American beech’s flowers are small and white, and they are followed by small, round fruits that contain one seed. The American beech’s bark is light gray and scaly, and it is shed in rings. The American beech is a fast-growing tree, and it is often used as a street tree.

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Pennsylvania’s forests are home to a diverse array of hardwood trees, some of the most valuable hardwoods in the world. These trees provide a wide range of benefits, from environmental and aesthetic to economic and social. This publication presents information about 10 important Pennsylvania hardwood tree species—their identification, wood characteristics, and value.

**PENNSYLVANIA HARDWOOD TREES**

Pennsylvania forests grow many of the most valuable hardwoods in the world. Hardwood trees have leaves that fall out in the winter. There are about 100 native tree species in any one location. This publication presents information about 10 important Pennsylvania hardwood tree species—identified by their scientific names and their common names, leaf characteristics, wood characteristics, and value.

**PECAN TREE (Carya illinoinensis)**

The pecan tree is a deciduous native tree species found in Pennsylvania. The pecan tree's leaves are simple, alternate, and compound with 5 to 11 leaflets. The pecan tree's wood is hard and heavy with a reddish-brown color. It is commonly found in the eastern deciduous forest and is valued for its nuts. Pecan trees are often used for ornamental purposes and are grown commercially for their nuts.

**RED MAPLE (Acer rubrum)**

Red maple is one of the most common deciduous tree species found in Pennsylvania. The red maple's leaves are alternate and simple, with three to five lobes. The red maple's wood is reddish-brown with a straight grain. It is commonly found in the eastern deciduous forest and is valued for its sap, which is used in the manufacture of maple syrup.

**WHITE OAK (Quercus alba)**

White oak is one of the most common deciduous tree species found in Pennsylvania. The white oak's leaves are alternate and simple, with five to nine lobes. The white oak's wood is white and offers a strong, hard material that is often used in the construction of cabinets, doors, and furniture. It is commonly found in the eastern deciduous forest and is valued for its wood and other products such as flooring.