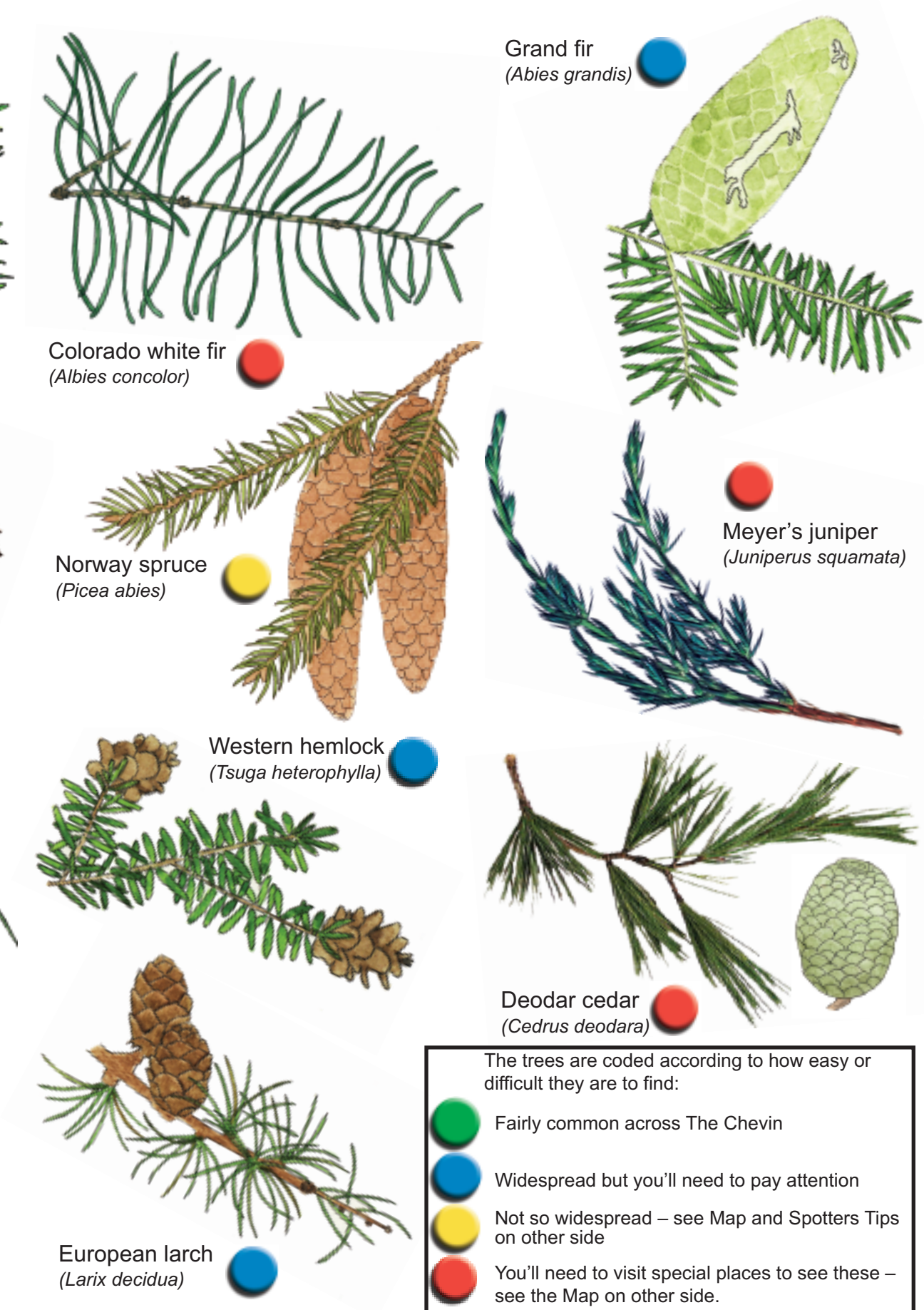
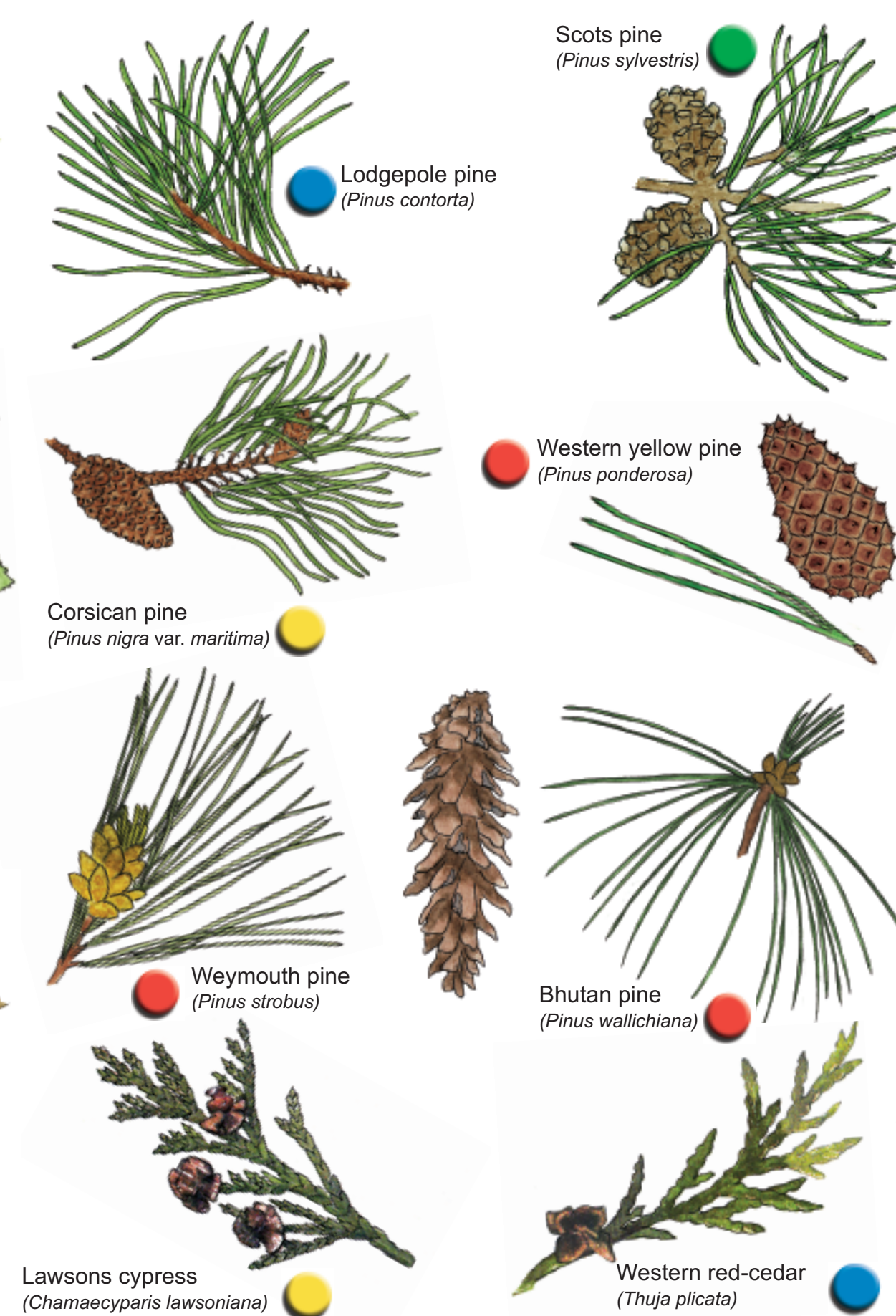
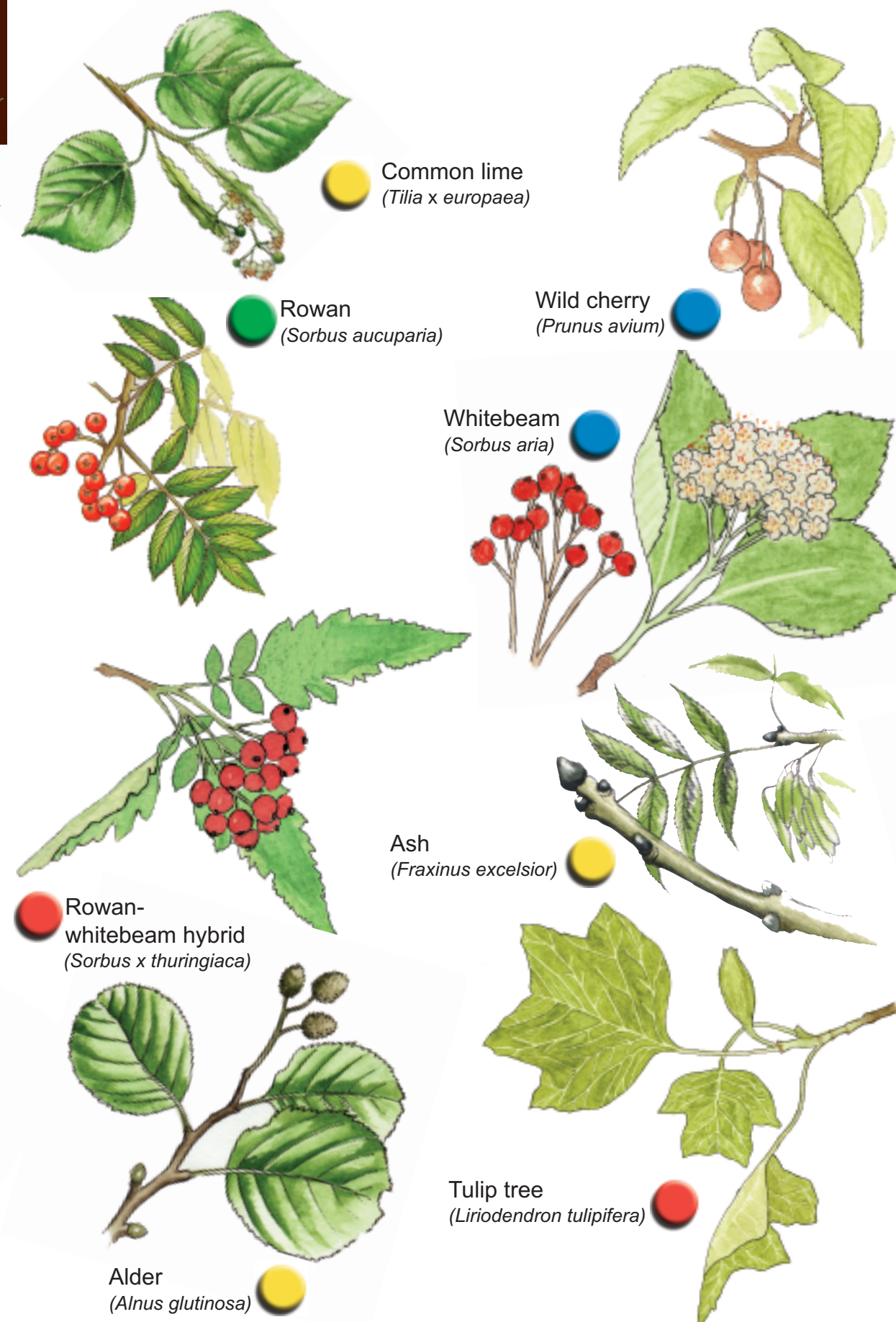
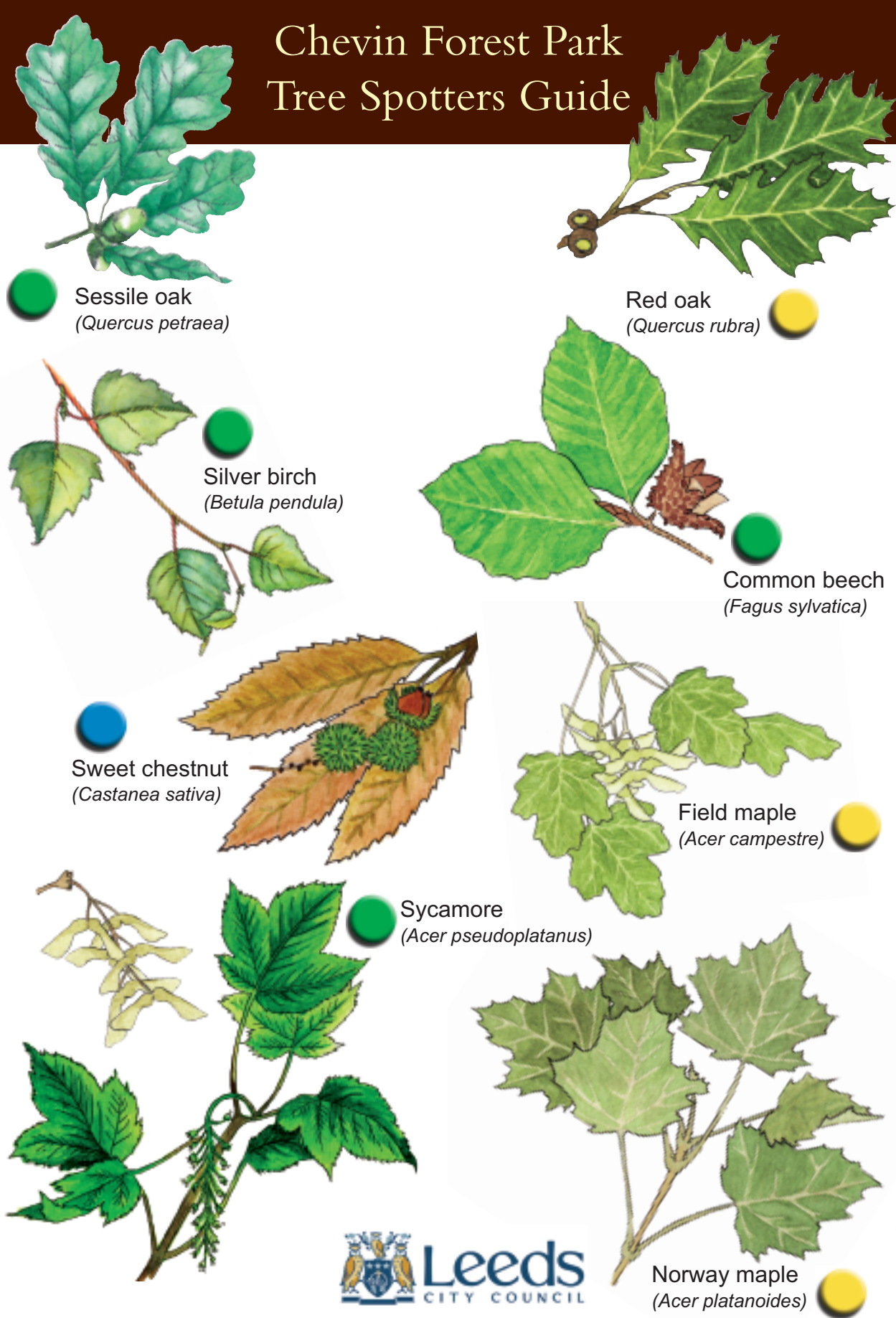


# Chevin Forest Park Tree Spotters Guide



The trees are coded according to how easy or difficult they are to find:

- Fairly common across The Chevin
- Widespread but you'll need to pay attention
- Not so widespread – see Map and Spotters Tips on other side
- You'll need to visit special places to see these – see the Map on other side.



# Welcome to the Tree Spotters Guide to the Chevin

Did you know The Chevin has over 100 different species of trees? That is far too many to show on this Tree Spotters Guide. Instead, this guide aims to give you an introduction to some of the more common and a few of the more unusual trees that you are likely to find whilst walking around The Chevin.

There is no guided trail or special route to follow, the trees are all around you wherever you are on The Chevin. The best place to find all these different trees is on the Danefield Estate, shown on the map opposite.

With so many different trees present do not despair if you can not recognise them all! If you are serious about tree spotting you may find it useful to buy a good book to help you with tree identification such as “A field guide to the Trees of Britain and Northern Europe” by Alan Mitchell.

## A brief history of trees and forestry on the Chevin

The Chevin is split into two by East Chevin Road. To the east of this road is an area that is known locally as the Danefield Estate which has a significant history of commercial forestry and planting of exotic tree species. In the late 1700s the Danefield Estate was given to the Fawkes family (who still live at Farnley Hall on the opposite side of the River Wharfe) who began the tradition of forestry through the planting of trees in the early 1800s. By the end of World War Two most of the Danefield Estate was clearfelled as part of the war effort. Records show that Sweet chestnut, Oak and Beech were the main tree species that would have been present and felled, being used for railway sleepers, coffins and rifle butts respectively.

After World War Two, the Danefield Estate was given to the public by the Fawkes family and the tradition of forestry started again through extensive planting of coniferous and broadleaved species. Therefore, most of the trees across the Danefield Estate are little over 50 years old apart from some trees (such as Sweet chestnut) which escaped the clearfelling.

Over the last 5 decades not only have many different plantation blocks become established across the Danefield Estate, but many different individual and groups of exotic trees have also been planted by the foresters who were housed in a group of stone buildings next to the Holbeck (see map). This has left a legacy of many different tree species being present, especially along the main track from the Danefield Gate (on East Chevin Road) to the Holbeck and then down the Holbeck to Leeds Road.

It was not until the late 1970s that land on the other side of East Chevin Road, that includes The White House and Surprise View, was added to what we now call Chevin Forest Park. Much of the woodland on this side also originated as plantations. Different families were given various plots of land by the Land Enclosure Acts in the 1700s but the trees are mainly broadleaved (i.e. Beech) and are older because they were not felled as part of the war effort.

This wonderful variety of tree species means that there is nearly always a type of tree in flower or in fruit throughout the year, providing a variety of food for resident or migrant birds and other wildlife all year round.

There are far more non-native species than native ones so expect the unexpected! You may also find Coastal redwood, Dawn redwood, Incense cedar, Monterey pine, Vilmorin’s fir, Silver fir, Noble fir, Paper-bark birch, Indian bean tree, Red snake-bark maple, Himalayan birch, Walnut, Japanese fir and many others.

# Finding your way around Danefield Estate

The plantation blocks have been given different names (as shown on the map) and you will find them made up of different tree species. Scots pine, Western hemlock, Larch, Lodgepole pine, Corsican pine, Sycamore and Beech make up the most frequently planted trees in many plantation blocks, but you will find many other tree species along the edges of the paths as you walk around.

- 15 Alder trees in damp area.
- 14 Good places to see the 2-neededled pines growing side-by side. The orange/pink bark and blue/green leaves of Scots pine contrast with the darker bark and brighter green leaves of the Lodgepole pine and Corsican pine.
- 13 Amongst the boulders and crags there is lots of natural regeneration of Oak, Birch and Rowan.
- 12 Look for a Deodar cedar visible from the track.
- 11 Red oak, Scots pine, Grand fir, Larch, Beech, Western red-cedar, Sweet chestnut and Western hemlock.

## Friends of Chevin Forest Park

The Friends of Chevin Forest Park carry out a practical task once per month to help keep The Chevin a wonderful place for people and wildlife. New faces are always very welcome and much needed. If you can spare a few hours per month and fancy some gentle exercise in the great outdoors contact 0113 237 5268. Visit [www.chevinforest.co.uk](http://www.chevinforest.co.uk) for more information.

To download a copy of the Chevin Forest Park management plan, orienteering maps and find out about any upcoming events visit [www.leeds.gov.uk](http://www.leeds.gov.uk) and type in “Chevin” into the search facility and follow the link.

1 Chippendale Ride was planted along its northern side with the kinds of trees Thomas Chippendale would have used in furniture making such as Sweet chestnut, Cherry, Hornbeam, Norway maple and Lime. Beech can be seen on the opposite side.

2 Open grassy area with 4 individual Hybrid Rowan x Whitebeam trees.

3 Track with Hawthorn, Hazel, Sweet Chestnut, Sycamore, Birch, Ash, Scots Pine and Rowan.

4 On the corner of these paths is a group of about 10 Bhutan pines, which have noticeably bigger cones than the similar 5-neededled Weymouth pine. Going west along this track look out for an old multi-stemmed Oak on your left. Just east of this Oak and about 10 yards behind it is a Deodar cedar.

5 Continue west a little further. After passing a group of Lawsons cypress trees look for 2 Western hemlock trees near the track with a Weymouth pine between them.

6 Further west, after passing a picnic bench and tall Lleylandii, you will find a Grand fir and 2 Irish yews. A path opposite a nearby Red oak leads down through tall Beech, Sycamore, Scots pine and Larch.

7 Look out for a group of young Norway spruce just east of the stream to the north of the path.

8 Opposite the vehicle turning area is a line of Maple trees planted in memory of the Head Forester Reginald Rawling. From east to west they are Silver, Norway and Sugar maple.

9 Site of the Foresters Building with an impressive Grand fir, and a Juniper growing on a low wall. If you walk down to the lowest concrete platform and look north you will see a Western yellow pine.

10 Between the Holbeck and the path leading down to Leeds Road is an interesting collection of trees including an unusual Rowan (grafted onto a Hawthorn base), Whitebeam, London plane, Tulip tree, Juniper, and a Colorado white fir near the gate.

# Tree spotters guide Top Tips

Leaves are the best way to identify most trees. Conifers tend to have thin needle-like leaves which are shed all year round so appear never to lose them. Broadleaved trees have wider, flattened leaves and tend to lose them all at the same time in Winter – when they will not be visible to help you identify them!

## Conifer Trees:

Conifers might all look the same but try getting to grips with the difference between Pines, Firs and Spruces by closely examining their needle-like leaves.

- Pines have their needles arising from the same point on the twigs, with needles either in pairs, threes or fives. Most pines have 2 needles, and if you see lots of cones retained on bare branches it is probably Lodgepole pine.
- Firs and Spruces have their needles arising singly, along the twigs (as does Western hemlock and Yew). Look for a little knobbly peg where the needle joins the twig, more obvious once the needle has fallen as it remains visible on the twig. If there is a little peg it is a Spruce, and if none is present it is a Fir – there are far more Fir trees than Spruce trees.
- Western hemlock leaves look similar to Grand fir and they do grow side-by-side. Western hemlock leaves are of very different lengths and much shorter. Grand fir has smoother bark and often has small blisters which release a strong-smelling, sticky resin when squeezed - beware of getting it on clothing.
- Yew leaves are similar to Western hemlock and Grand fir but its leaves are greener and fleshier and they do not produce cones. Irish Yew is a special type of Yew that grows very upright and also may be seen.
- Unlike other conifer trees, Larch lose all their needles in Winter. Larch and Cedar leaves are similar but the cones differ and there are very few Cedars present.
- Western red-cedar (not a true Cedar) has leaves similar to Lawsons cypress. If you crush the leaves of Western red-cedar it releases a strong pineapple-type smell, whereas Lawsons cypress give off a less strong resinous aroma.
- There is one Lleylandii on The Chevin – this is a hybrid Cypress and therefore the leaves are very similar to Lawson cypress which it grows near to!
- Conifers produce seeds from a cone instead of a fruit or berry. Cone size and shape is a good way to identify them, and different conifers produce them at different times of the year.

## Broadleaved Trees:

Some broadleaved trees produce attractive berries or fruits, whilst others produce nuts. All of these, along with the leaves, help to identify what species you are looking at.

- Rowan is common across The Chevin and normally produces bright red berries. Rowan trees often have characteristic horizontal lines visible on their silvery bark, but so does Cherry.
- Some parts of The Chevin are too steeply sloping or rocky to be planted with trees. However, such challenging terrain is ideal for native broadleaved trees such as Oak, Birch and Rowan to grow naturally, often with Sycamore.
- Alder and Willow trees tend to grow where the ground is wet.
- There are 2 native species of Oak (Pedunculate and Sessile oak) that are common and look similar with their wavy edged leaves, but you may also see Red oak with its much bigger and jagged edged leaves.
- There are 2 native species of Birch that are common. When fully mature Silver birch tends to have white bark with big black diamond shapes and is deeply fissured at the base – but Downy birch tends to retain a smoother bark.
- As well as the native Beech tree, you may find Copper beech and Fern-leaved beech.

This Tree Spotters Guide has been produced by The Friends of Chevin Forest Park with the support of Leeds City Council and funding from the National Lottery through Big Lottery Fund and Breathing Places. Printed on paper from well-managed forests.

