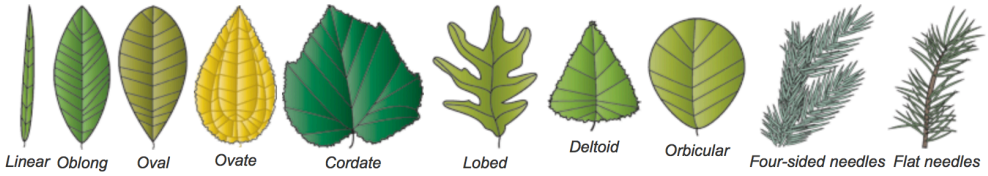
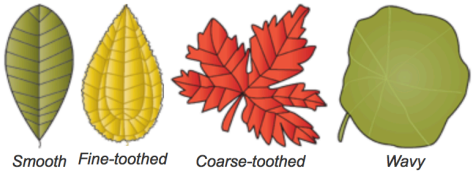
Leaf Classification

→ Scientists have classified leaves based on their characteristics. The shape of a leaf, the kind of leaf margin, and veining can all be used to classify and identify trees. The leaf type and the arrangement of leaves on the twig are also important factors in tree identification.

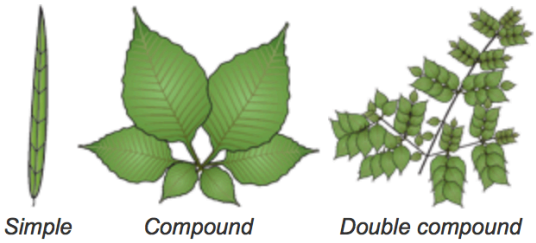
→ Leaves can be classified based on the shape of the blade. There are 10 different leaf shapes: linear, oblong, oval, ovate, cordate (heart-shaped), lobed, deltoid (triangular), orbicular (round), four-sided needles, and flat needles.



Leaves can also be classified by their margins. Leaf edges, or margins, can be smooth, fine-toothed, coarse-toothed, or wavy.



Simple leaf type - only one leaf on each petiole
Compound type - more than one blade on each petiole.
Double compound - several blades attached to several petioles.



Leaves can also be classified by their arrangement on a twig.
Leaf arrangements can be opposite, alternate, whorl, and basal.
Needle arrangements can be in bundles of two and five, singly on a twig, or scale-like and in clusters of more than five.