

## TREES IN THE ORCHARD HILL PROPERTY

1. TREMBLING OR QUAKING ASPEN is a small to medium sized tree 30 to 40 feet high. The small leaves shimmer in the wind. It is a fast growing tree which forms extensive pure stands. The bark is light gray color.
2. YELLOW BIRCH is a medium-sized tree, 60 to 70 feet high. In the forest the trunk is relatively clear of branches. The most important of the commercial birches, this tree probably furnishes three fourths of birch lumber.
3. WHITE OAK can become a large tree, up to 100 feet with a wide spreading crown. The gray squirrel plants many of this oak's acorns in the fall and then forgets where he planted them, thus insuring the continuance of the species. The light colored bark makes it easy to recognize among oaks.
4. NORTHERN RED OAK is a medium sized tree, 60 to 70 feet high with a rounded crown of large branches. The acorns are a great food source for deer, turkey and squirrels. It is the most valuable of all Connecticut oaks because of its hardness.
5. AMERICAN HORNBEAM or IRONWOOD is a small, often shrubby, tree of 20 to 30 feet high. It has a short fluted trunk and the wood is hard and heavy. It sometimes looks like muscles straining. The buds are eaten by some birds including ruffed grouse.
6. AMERICAN BEECH is a medium sized tree, 70 to 80 feet high. The nut is enclosed in a bur which is a favorite food for both birds and animals. The attractive bark is unique as it is a smooth almost shiny gray color.
7. RED MAPLE, sometimes called a swamp maple, is a medium sized forest tree from 50 to 70 feet high with a long trunk. A typical swamp tree, it is one of the most common Connecticut trees. The red buds are the first to flower in the spring.
8. BLACK CHERRY is a medium sized tree growing 60 to 70 feet high. This is one of the most valuable forest trees as its hardwood is of high quality and in demand for furniture. The berries are sought by many species of birds.
9. EASTERN HEMLOCK is an evergreen forest tree which may reach 70 feet in height. Found in various soils, it does best with plenty of water. It also does well in pure stands. It was used for paper and lumber in colonial times.
10. AMERICAN ELM can be found here and there in forests, though the Dutch elm disease killed many. Sometimes attaining 80 feet, it is considered one of the most beautiful of native trees. The arching limbs sometimes give it a look of a vase.
11. BLACK OAK is a medium sized tree 60 to 70 feet high with rounded crown of large branches. The bark is thick, nearly black and heavily furrowed. Its acorns are enjoyed by deer, turkey and all rodents.
12. EASTERN RED CEDAR is a medium sized evergreen tree, 40 to 50 feet high. Quite recognizable for its reddish brown bark which withers to gray, it does best on soils of limestone origin.
13. SCARLET OAK is a medium sized tree growing up to 80 feet and has an oblong crown. It is often used as an ornamental tree in yards because its leaves turn a beautiful scarlet in autumn. Because of the deep cut in the leaves, it is sometimes confused with pin oak.
14. SUGAR MAPLE is a handsome tree which may attain nearly 100 feet in height. From the American Indians the pioneers learned the art of making syrup and sugar from the sap of the sugar maple. It ranks high as a timber tree used extensively for flooring, furniture, and crates. Abnormalities in the grain create the prized cabinet woods, "curly maple" or "bird's eye maple."
15. SHAG BARK HICKORY is notable for its heavy strong wood used for ax handles and other tools. It also makes an excellent firewood. This 70 to 80 feet high tree is quite recognizable in maturity for the bark breaks up into plates the ends of which curve away from the trunk.

## FERNS, MOSSES, AND WILDFLOWERS ON THE RED TRAIL

- A. PRINCESS PINE (*Lycopodium Obscurum*) height 4 - 6 inches, an evergreen, a species of the club moss that reproduces by spores. They are descended from the Giant 100 feet tall tree-like plants that filled the forests before the Age of Dinosaurs.
- B. CHRISTMAS FERN (*Polystichum Arctichoides*) evergreen, in rocky woods, 1 to 2.5 feet high. Highly polished deep green fronds. Identified by the leaflets that look like little Christmas stockings.
- C. CINNAMON FERN (*Osmunda Cinnamomea*) in swampy places, growing in a crown, 1 to 5 feet high. Easily identified by the cinnamon brown fertile fronds in the middle of the crown.
- D. HAY-SCENTED FERN (*Dennstaedtia Functiflora*) hillsides, meadows and thickets, 2 to 3 feet high. Light green, delicate fronds. Sweet hay scent when bruised.
- E. NEWYORK FERN (*Dryopteris Noveboracensis*) woods and open meadows, 1 to more than 2 feet high. Identified by the tapering of both ends of the frond.
- F. WOOD FERN (*Dryopteris Marginalis*) partly evergreen, in rocky woods, up to 3 feet, identify by conspicuous marginal fruit dots.
- G. EASTERN SKUNK CABBAGE (*Simplocarpus Foetidus*) height 4 to 6 inches, growing in wetlands is one of the first signs of spring. Its yellow flower bud hidden inside the protective hood attracts flies, gnats, and spiders. Breaking the leaves causes the skunk odor.
- H. JACK-IN-THE-PULPIT (*Arisaema Triphyllum*) height 1 to 2 feet, a favorite of children. The tall green pulpit is streaked with purple or brown and arches over "Jack". The small flowers are clustered at "Jack's" feet. During late summer the flowers are replaced by glossy red fruit.
- I. RED TRILLIUM (*Trillium Erectum*) height 6 to 9 inches, grows from an underground stem. The stalk bears three broad leaves and a flower that has petals and three sepals. The flower is beautiful but hard to find sometimes because it droops from an arched stalk.
- J. WILD LILY-OF-THE-VALLEY (*Maianthemum Canadense*) height 4 to 6 inches. Also called "Canada Mayflower". Has oval leaves and covers the floor of cool, moist woods. The stalk of white flowers appears in May, during the summer small clusters of red berries are produced.
- K. SOLOMON'S SEAL (*Polygonatum Pubescens*) height 1 to 2 feet, has small, green-white, bell-shaped flowers that originate from the base of each leaf. During the summer, dark blue berries develop. The common name comes from the shape of the scar left by each previous year's stalk on the underground stem, which resembles the wax-seal on documents in former times.
- L. BLUE MARSH VIOLET (*Viola Spp.*) height 4 to 6 inches. There are many species of Violet, some found in marshes and others in open woods or the edge of meadows. Cut-up violet flowers can be used as a decorative garnish on salads, where they not only provide color but also are a source of vitamin C.
- M. BUTTERCUP (*Ranuncular Spp.*) is usually found in a moist habitat and easily recognized by children. The butter-yellow reflection of the shiny, waxy petals when held under the chin always gives a "Yes" when asked: "Do you like butter?" However, cows are poisoned if they eat the plant.
- N. WILD COLUMBINE (*Aquilegia Canadensis*) height 1 to 2 feet, has colorful red and orange nodding flowers at the ends of tall stems with delicate leaves. The long spurs of the petals resemble bird claws or talons.

