

Tree Tracking Activity

Brucemore's grounds are filled with trees and other plants that provide shelter and food for wildlife. Explore the grounds to see what kinds of trees you can find.

Tree Types

Deciduous trees lose all of their leaves each year.

Conifer trees have evergreen needles or scaly leaves that do not fall off during cold weather.



Pine Trees

Pine trees are conifers. They have needles that are bunched in groups of two, three, or five, depending on the type of tree.

Can you find a pine tree?



The seeds of pine trees are found in pine cones. Each petal of a pine cone holds one seed. When the weather is dry, the cones open so the wind can scatter the seeds. When the weather is wet, the cones close because the seeds are too heavy to be scattered as far as dry seeds. Can you find a pine cone?

At home, dip a pine cone in a cup of water and observe what happens.



Oak Trees

The oak tree is a deciduous tree and is also Iowa's state tree. Oaks have rounded lobed leaves, or leaves with several rounded points. Can you find an oak tree?

Acorns come from oaks and provide food for wildlife. Can you find an acorn?



Ask an adult to help you crack the acorn open to see the nut inside.

Maple Trees



Maple trees are deciduous trees. They are popular shade trees and are known as a source of

maple syrup. Maple leaves have sharp points. Can you find a maple tree?

Maple seeds are enclosed in pods called samaras, popularly known as helicopter seeds. Find one and throw it in the air. Does the way it falls remind you of a helicopter?



Did you find other kinds of trees in the gardens? Draw a leaf or make a rubbing by placing the leaf behind the paper and gently rubbing your pencil or crayon over it. Can you identify if it is from a deciduous or a conifer tree?

For more activities, visit www.brucemore.org.

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