

Deciduous Forests

The word **deciduous** means to shed or to fall off. Deciduous forests occur in regions that have four distinct seasons. Each season marks a change in the life cycle of a tree. In spring,

nutrients stored in the roots are drawn upward and new leaves begin to grow. In summer, leaves create energy through a process called **photosynthesis** which enables a tree to grow. In

autumn energy production ceases and nutrients return to the roots. This causes the brilliant fall colors to appear and eventually the leaves to drop. In winter a tree survives the

cold and shortened days by entering **dormancy**, a sleep-like state. As a deciduous forest matures some of the older trees of the forest will die and begin a new life cycle as a **snag**.

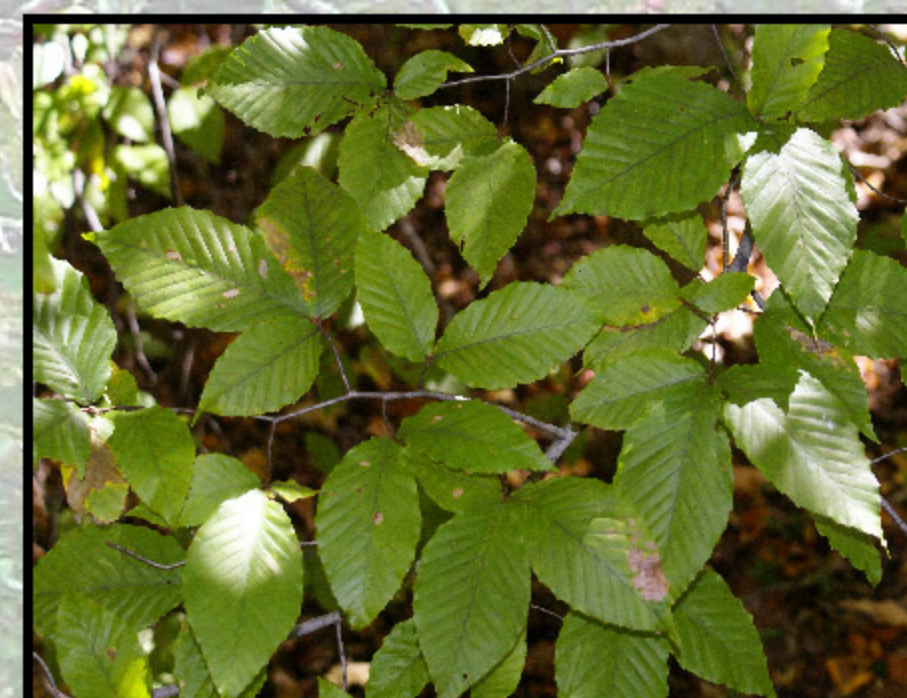


NATURE NOTE :

A deciduous forest receives between 30 – 60 inches of precipitation a year.

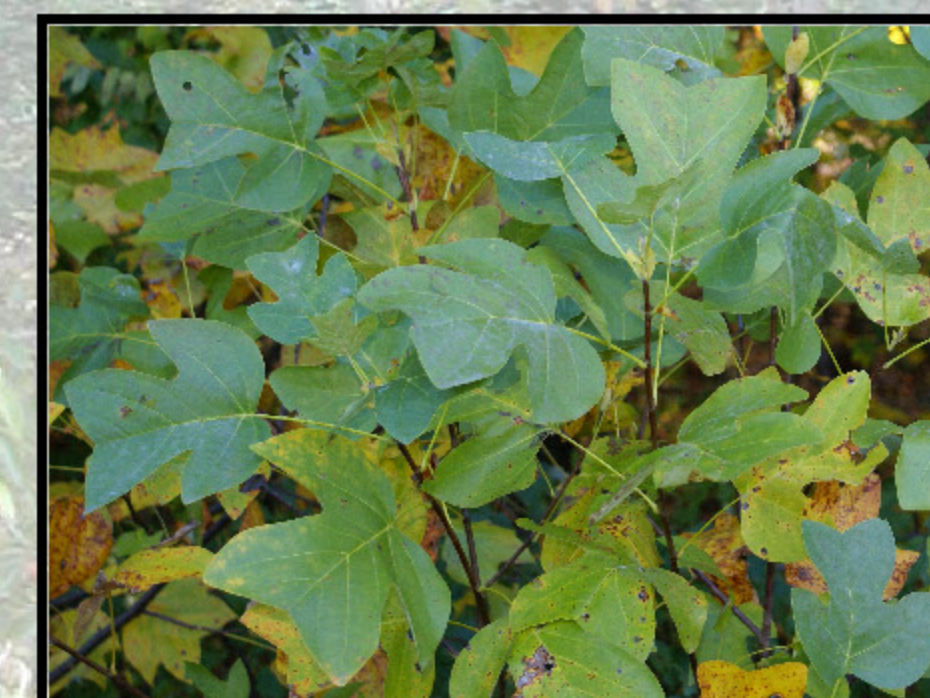
CAN YOU IDENTIFY THESE DECIDUOUS TREES ?

A



American Beech

B



Yellow Poplar

C



Sweet Gum



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