

Leaf Shapes



Leaves come in all different shapes. Take a look around you and see how many of these leaves you can find. Don't forget to look on the ground for fallen leaves, on hedges and on trees. There is no need to remove living leaves from the plants

Compound leaves



A leaf divided into separate **leaflets**. Palmate leaves and pinnate leaves are examples.

Pinnate

A compound leaf where the leaflets are arranged along the leaf stalk, usually in opposite pairs



Palmate

A compound leaf where three or more leaflets arise from the top of the leaf stalk



Digitate

A palmate leaf where the leaves are narrow and shaped like fingers



Trifoliate

A compound leaf with 3 leaflets. A clover is an example of a Trifoliate.



Simple leaves



A simple leaf is not divided into leaflets.

Oblong

A leaf that has parallel sides and is about 2 or 3 times longer than it is wide



Obovate

A leaf with the broadest point above the middle of the leaf



Elliptical

A leaf which is widest in the middle and gets more narrow to the tip and base



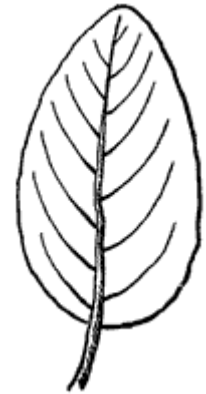
Cordate

Heart shaped leaf



Ovate

An egg shaped leaf where the broadest point is below the middle of the leaf.



Lanceolate

A long narrow leaf which is wider at the base than the tip, and gently tapers at the tip.



Pinnatifid

A leaf that is cut into lobes, but not cut right to the middle of the leaf.

