

Winter Twigs – now that most of our trees have lost their leaves it is harder to identify them. But many trees have quite unusual and distinctive buds – see below. Can you match up the different photos of tree buds with the written descriptions? Which tree is which? Write the name of each tree underneath the photo then see if you can identify some of them in your local green space.



<p>ASH Large, black buds on smooth, pale-grey stems, with a larger terminal bud at the end. Buds are in opposite pairs. The stems are usually very straight.</p>	<p>HORSE CHESTNUT Large, shiny, sticky brown buds with dark brown scales. The buds are opposite along the greyish-brown stem. There are sometimes horseshoe-shaped leaf scars just below the bud.</p>	<p>LIME Plump, red-purple buds, alternate along the reddish or brown stem. The stem is very smooth and can sometimes be zigzagged.</p>
<p>HAZEL Plump, green to reddish brown buds with visible scales that have a thin, brown edge. The slightly zigzagged stem is pale brown and furry when young. The buds are alternate along the stem and there are often catkins present.</p>	<p>BEECH Pointy, slim buds on a thin, reddish-brown stem with small, pale spots. Buds are alternate along the stem and have long, copper-coloured scales leading to a whitish tip. The stems often zigzag along their length.</p>	<p>SYCAMORE Pale green buds in opposite pairs. They have large scales with purple edges and a fringe of small white hairs. The stems are grey-brown with small spots between the buds.</p>
<p>ALDER Reddish-purple buds 'boxing glove' shaped on short stalks (3mm long) are alternate along the stem. Twigs are grey-brown and sometimes have small 'warts'.</p>	<p>ENGLISH OAK Fat, orange-brown buds with lots of scales. Buds are alternate and can be in clusters at the end of the stem. Grey to brown stems with pale warts.</p>	<p>WILD CHERRY Red-brown buds are rounded with a point. Buds are alternate along the stem and can be in clusters of up to 9 buds at the end. The stem is usually quite straight with a smooth, peeling, pale-grey layer with red-brown underneath.</p>

Opposite buds – buds are in pairs opposite each other

Alternate buds - buds are spaced along the stem at regular intervals

Terminal bud – the bud at the end of the stem

Scales – leafy plates that form a protective covering over the bud

Catkins – dangling flowers

Leaf scar – a mark left on a stem (just below a bud) where the old leaf fell off

