

# Dichotomous Key to the Deciduous Trees of Waterloo Region

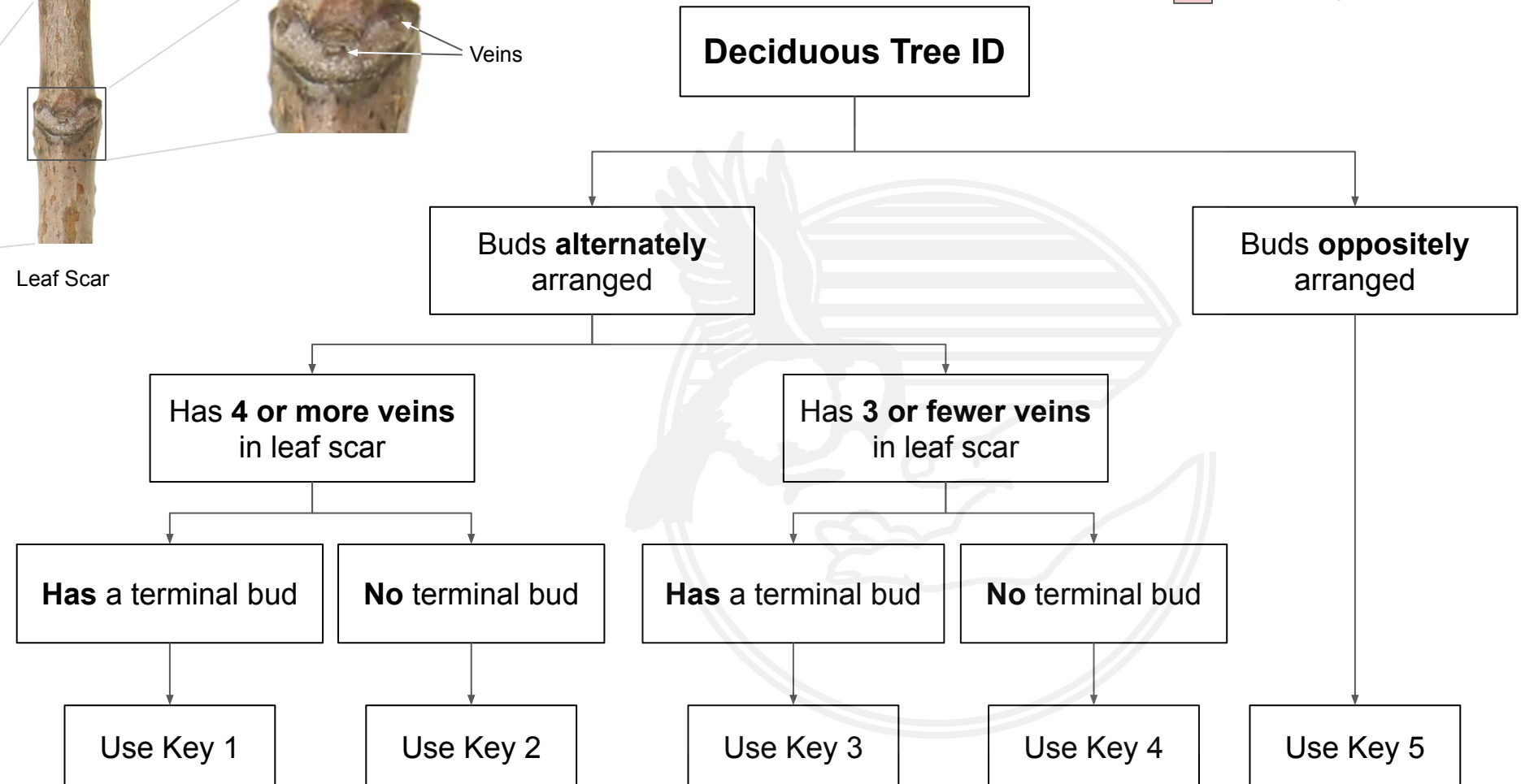
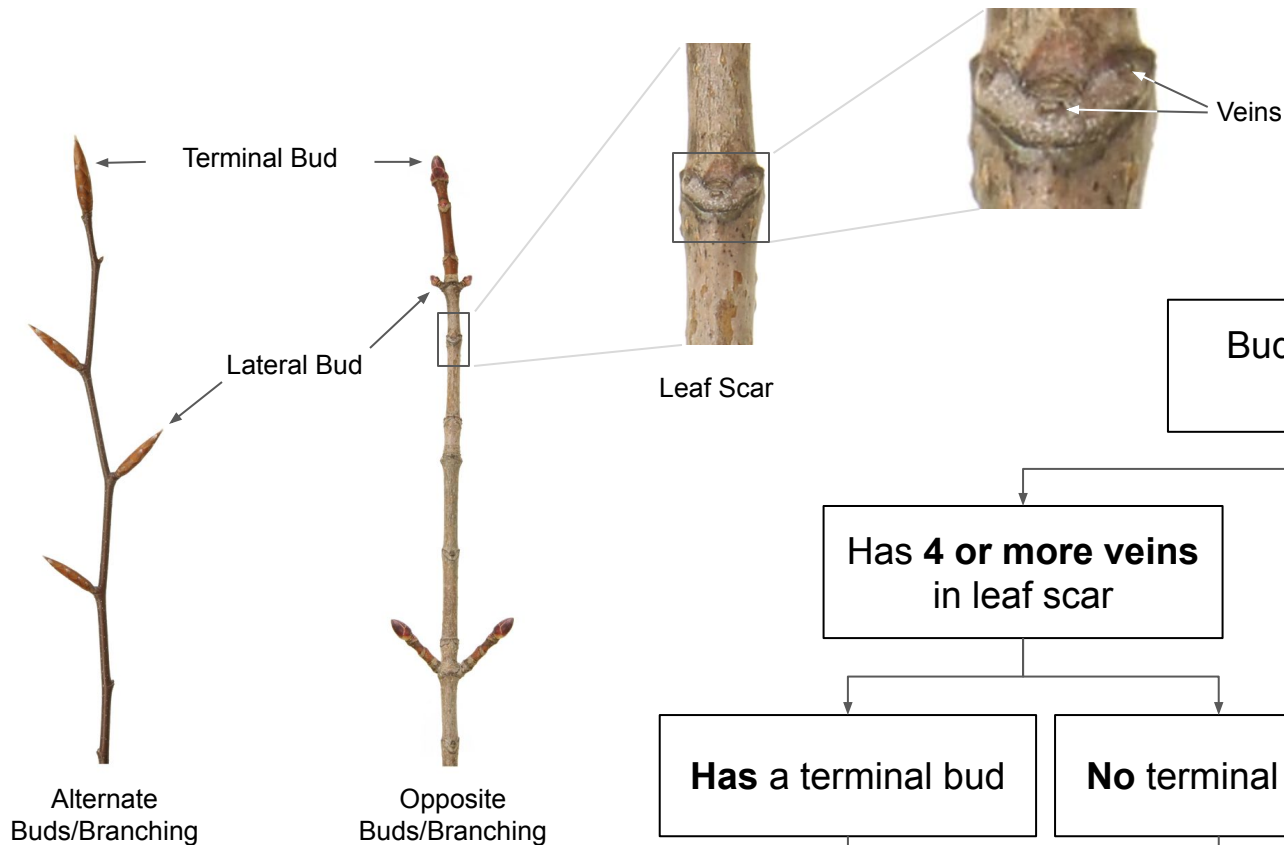
This key does not include shrubs (a woody plant that grows less than 4.5 meters tall when mature).

## Instructions:

- 1) Start at the top and work your way down the key.
- 2) Once you have determined which subsequent key to use, flip to the appropriate page.
- 3) Follow the steps through the second key, top to bottom, until you find the correct species.

## Index:

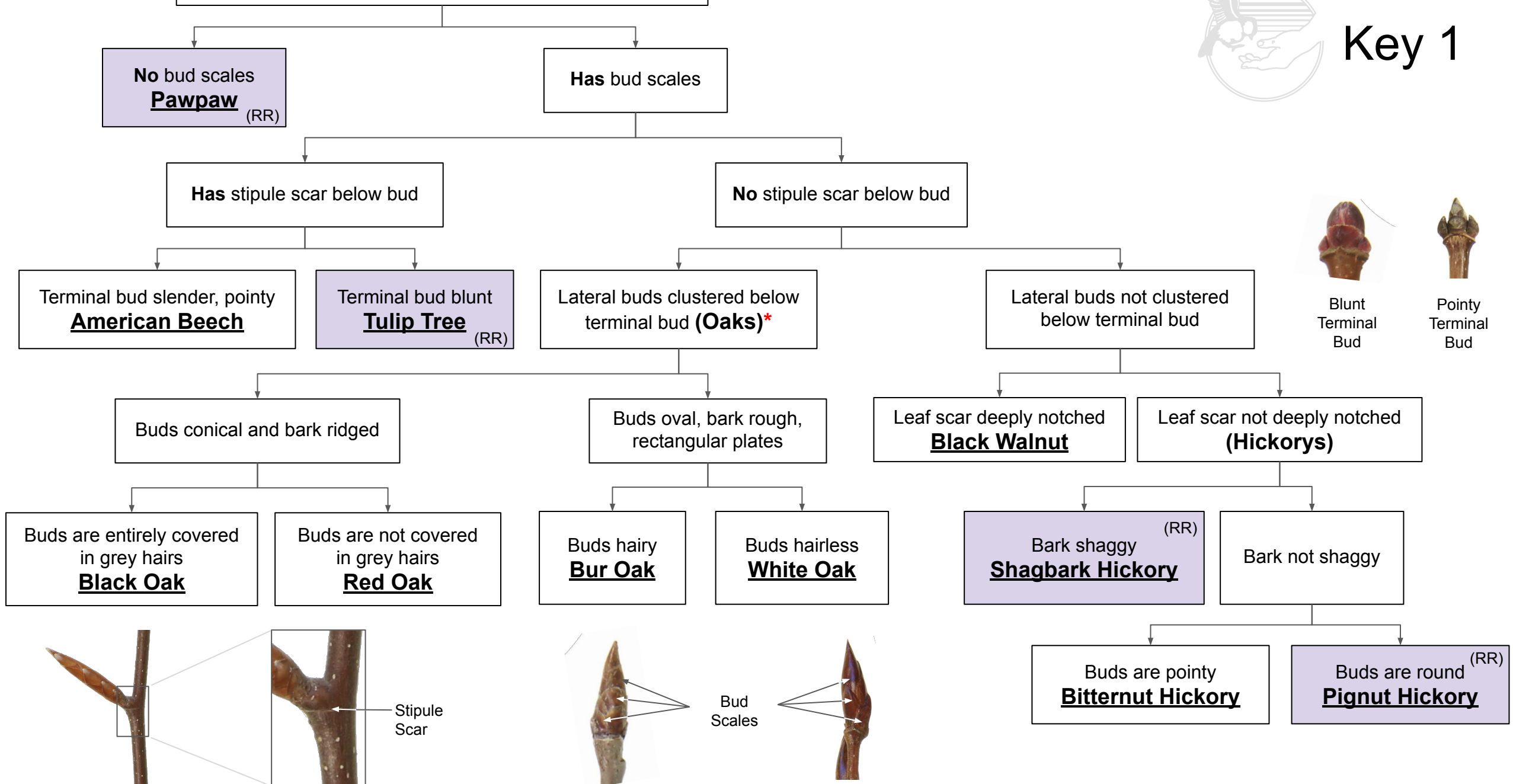
NN	- Non-Native
RR	- Regionally Rare
SC	- Special Concern
TH	- Threatened
EN	- Endangered



**ALTERNATE Branching with 4+ veins  
in leaf scar, WITH Terminal Bud**



**Key 1**

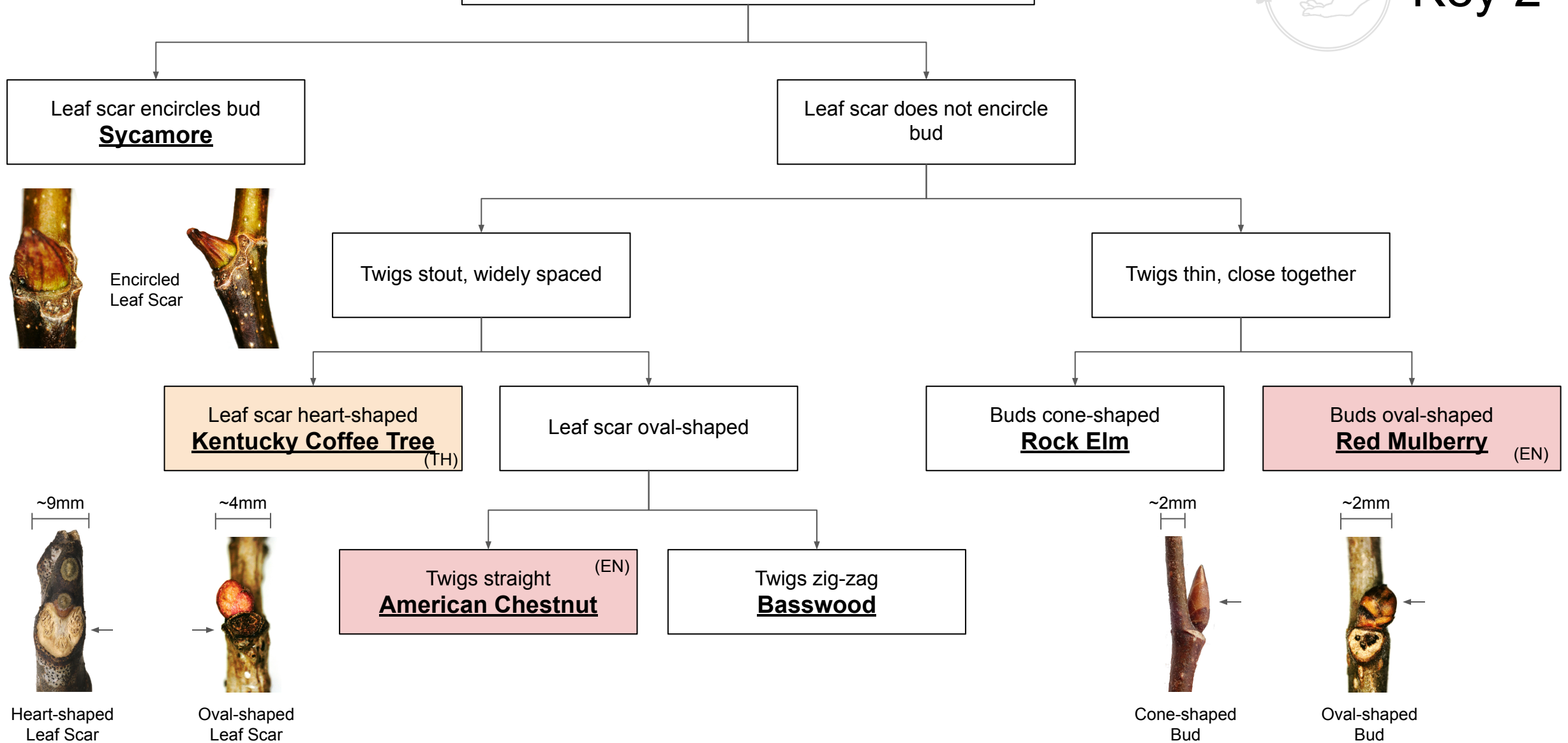


\*Potential for five unlisted oak species in the southern part of Waterloo Region: Swamp Red, Swamp White, Hills, Chinquapin, and Dwarf Chinquapin Oaks



## Key 2

### ALTERNATE Branching with 4+ veins in leaf scar, WITHOUT Terminal Bud





# Key 3

**ALTERNATE** Branching with 3 or fewer veins in leaf scar, **WITH** a terminal bud

Leaf scar with only one vein  
**Sassafras** (RR)

Leaf scar with more than one vein

Twigs with thorns  
**Prickly-Ash**

Twigs without thorns

Lowest scale above scar  
**(Poplars)**

Lowest scale not above scar

Big buds (>1cm)

Smaller buds (<1cm)

Vein scar white  
**Black Gum** (RR)

Vein scars not white (Bud scales 10-15)  
**Black Cherry**

Leaf scar has 'eye-lashes'  
**Eastern Cottonwood**

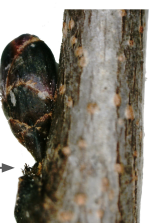
Leaf scar does not have 'eye-lashes'  
**Balsam Poplar**

Terminal bud conical  
**Trembling Aspen**

Terminal bud oval  
**Large-tooth Aspen**



Front view

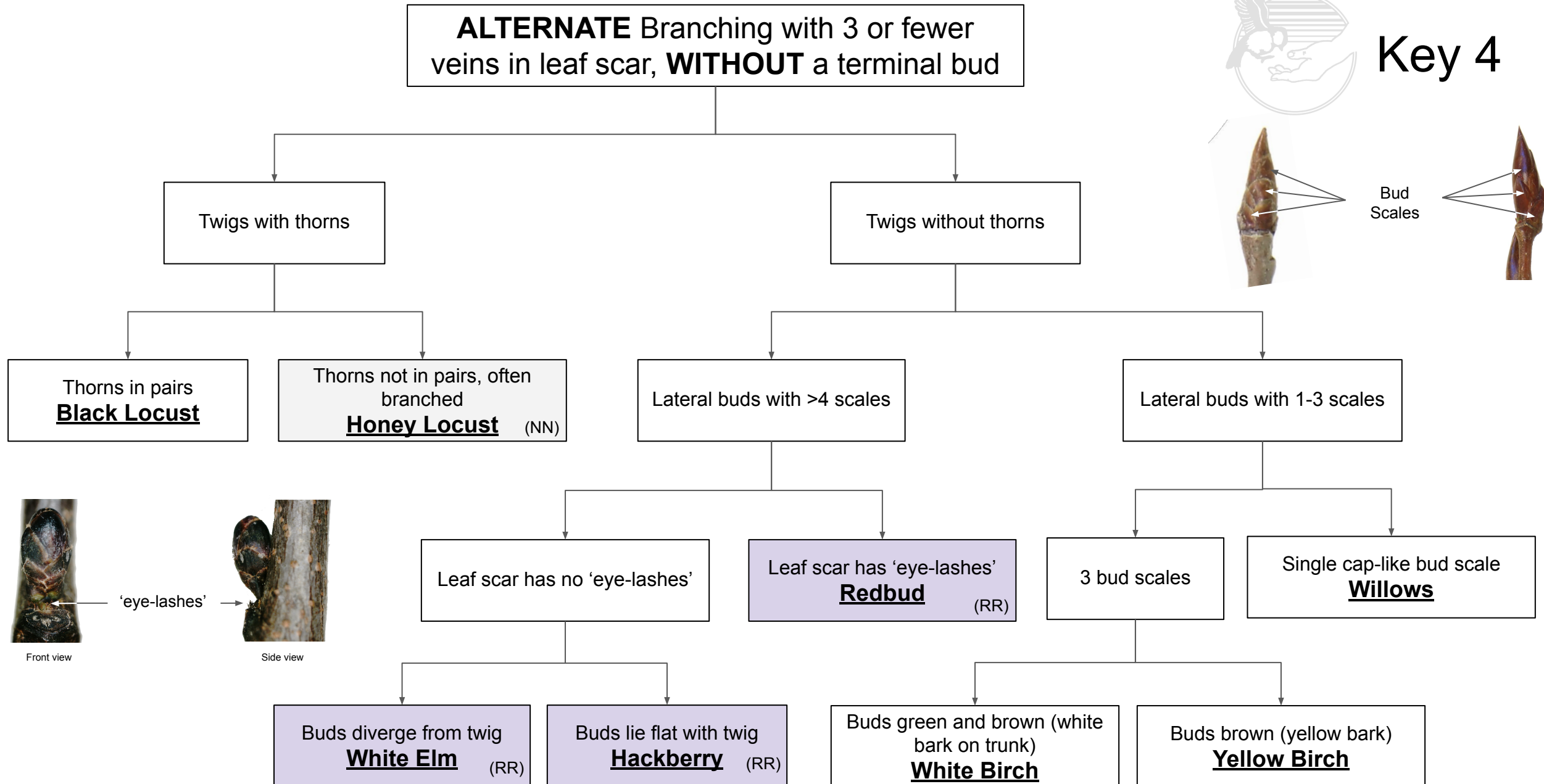
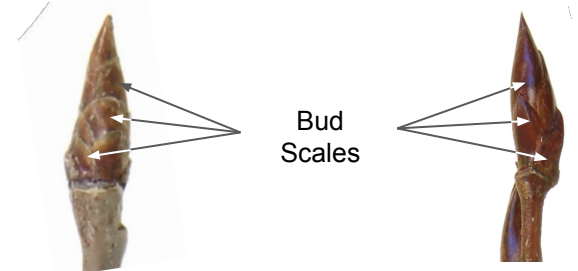


Side view

Bud Scales

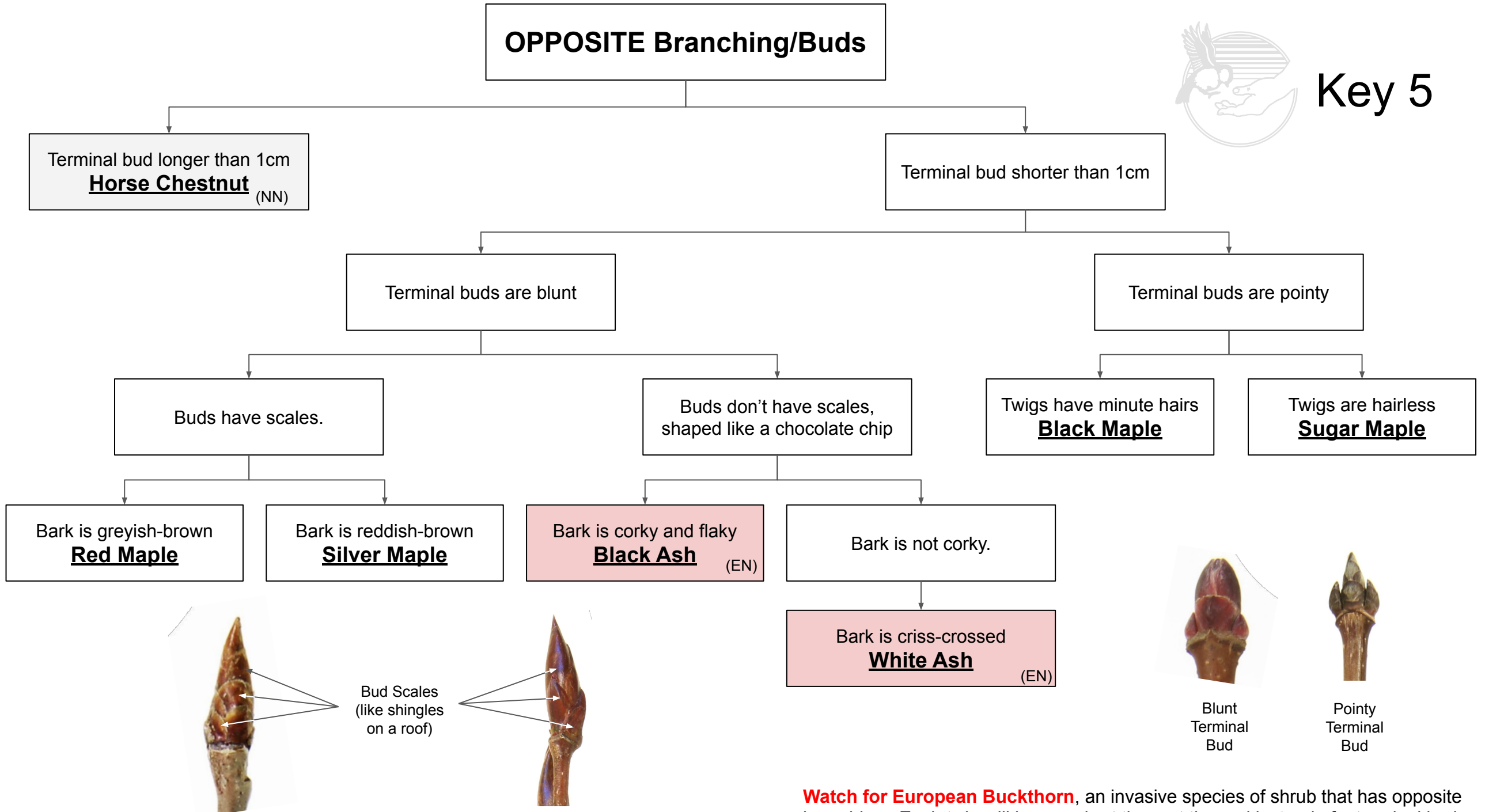


## Key 4





# Key 5



**Watch for European Buckthorn**, an invasive species of shrub that has opposite branching. Each twig will have a short thorn at the end instead of a terminal bud.

## Key Characteristics Chart (For when you can't see the buds)

[illegible]

# Species List: Tree's of Waterloo Region

This key does not include shrubs (wood upright plants less than 4.5 meters tall when mature).

Horse Chestnut, Black Maple, Sugar Maple, Red Maple, Silver Maple, Black Ash, White Ash  
(Shrubs: Elderberry, Dogwoods)

American Beech, Tulip Tree, White Oak, Red Oak, Bur Oak, Pin Oak, Black Oak, Shagbark Hickory, Butternut Hickory, Bitternut Hickory, Black Walnut  
(Shrubs: Poison Sumac, Mountain Ash, Alders, Pawpaw)

Sycamore, Kentucky Coffee, Basswood, American Chestnut, Rock Elm, Mulberry,  
(Shrubs: Witch Hazel, winged hazel, Sumac)

Black Locust, Honey Locust, Kentucky Coffee, Common Hoptree, Willows, White Birch, Yellow Birch, Chestnut,  
White Elm, Hackberry,  
(Shrubs: Blue Beech, Ironwood, Hazels, Redbud)



# Twigs of Waterloo Region's Common Tree Species



Use the Key to identify the fifteen twigs provided.

Record your answers here.

1		6		11	
2		7		12	
3		8		13	
4		9		14	
5		10		15	

# Characteristics to Group Tree's by:

Predict	Explain	Observe	Actual & Explanation
1)			
2)			
3)			
4)			
5)			
6)			

Answers for previous page: 1) Basswood, 2) White Birch, 3) Red Oak, 4) Black Walnut, 5) Black Cherrry, 6) Largetooth Aspen, 7) Bur Oak, 8) White Oak, 9) American Beech, 10) Sugar Maple, 11) White Ash, 12) Balsam Poplar, 13) Pignut Hickory, 14) Trembling Asplen, 15) Black Ash, 16) Red Maple

# Various Interests/Land Uses:

**Economic:** Timber, mining, maple syrup, eco-tourism, hunting/fishing, farming, realestate, commercial,

**Social:** Bird Watching, Dog Walking, Hiking/Running, Cycling, Horse-back riding, picnic, weddings, forest school, beatification, enrichment, happiness,

**Environmental:** Benchmark, wildlife refuge, wildlife corridor, pollinator refuge, Source population, Indicator Species, Keystone species, Endangered Species, primary research,

**Regulatory Framework:** Municipal plans/bylaws, Zoning, Conservation Authority water management strategy/Targets, Provincial Regulations, Park Areas, Designated Wildlife Refuge, National Parks, Crown Land, Endangered Species Legislation,