

<b>Course Name: Plant ID Trees and Shrubs – Module</b>	
<b>Course Coordinators: State Forester, State Biologist</b>	<b>Course Number: MI0029</b>

**Overview:**

This training module will focus on identification of Michigan’s common native and naturalized woody plants and those used to implement conservation practices in Michigan. The participant will learn the botanical and common names of common woody species. The participant will also learn how to use distinguishing characteristics (bark, twigs, leaves, flowers, fruit and habit) and site requirements to help identify common woody species. The participant will learn some of the uses and woodcraft of the species discussed and will learn how to use summer and winter keys as an aid in woody plant identification. This module is not intended to cover all aspects of woody plant identification but is designed to be of an introductory level for new NRCS employees and for those who wish a “refresher” in woody plant identification.

**Purpose:**

To provide the trainee with necessary information and knowledge needed to identify woody plants associated with conservation practices in Michigan. Woody plants identified will be those commonly used for a variety of conservation purposes including, but not limited to: water erosion control, wind erosion control, snow and sound barriers, forest management, wildlife management, beautification, landscaping, horticulture and forest farming.

**Prerequisites:**

None

**Duration:**

This is a two-part, one-day course. Part one is covered in the classroom (approximately 3 hours). Part two is conducted in the field (approximately 5 hours).

**Target Audience:**

All NRCS and conservation partnership employees who wish to improve their skills in identifying woody plants used for conservation purposes.

**Expected Outcomes:**

The minimum conservation planning proficiency level expected of participants is “4. Apply independently – can perform independently unless special problems are encountered; only a general check of work is required.”

**Resources Needed:**

Part 1 (classroom):

- Room with tables and chairs for 8 to 25 participants
- Computer with projector and a projector screen
- Michigan Trees (Barnes and Wagner) (one per participant)
- Shrubs of Michigan (Billington) (one per participant)
- 10x or 15x hand lenses (one per participant)

Part 2 (field exercise):

- One or more forested sites with a diverse range of trees and shrubs and/or established conservation practices with diverse woody plants
- ID tools required for Part 1
- Clipboards, paper, pencil, etc.

**Outline for: Plant ID Trees and Shrubs – Module**

**Part 1 – Classroom**

Review outline of course and objectives

Using references and identification keys

Morphological Characteristics

Leaves

Twigs, bud and branch arrangement

Bark

Flowers

Fruit

Habit, size and form

Habitat

Important forest products species

Other easy-to-identify species

Common invasive woody plants

Plant specimen collection tips

Plant I.D. exercise in classroom with fresh collected specimens in groups of 3 to 5

**Part 2 – Field Identification Exercise**

Tour of field site(s) to discuss key species characteristics

Plant I.D. exercise in field in groups of 3 to 5

Native species

Non-native and invasive species

Group discussion and conclusion

Course evaluation