

Tennessee Trees

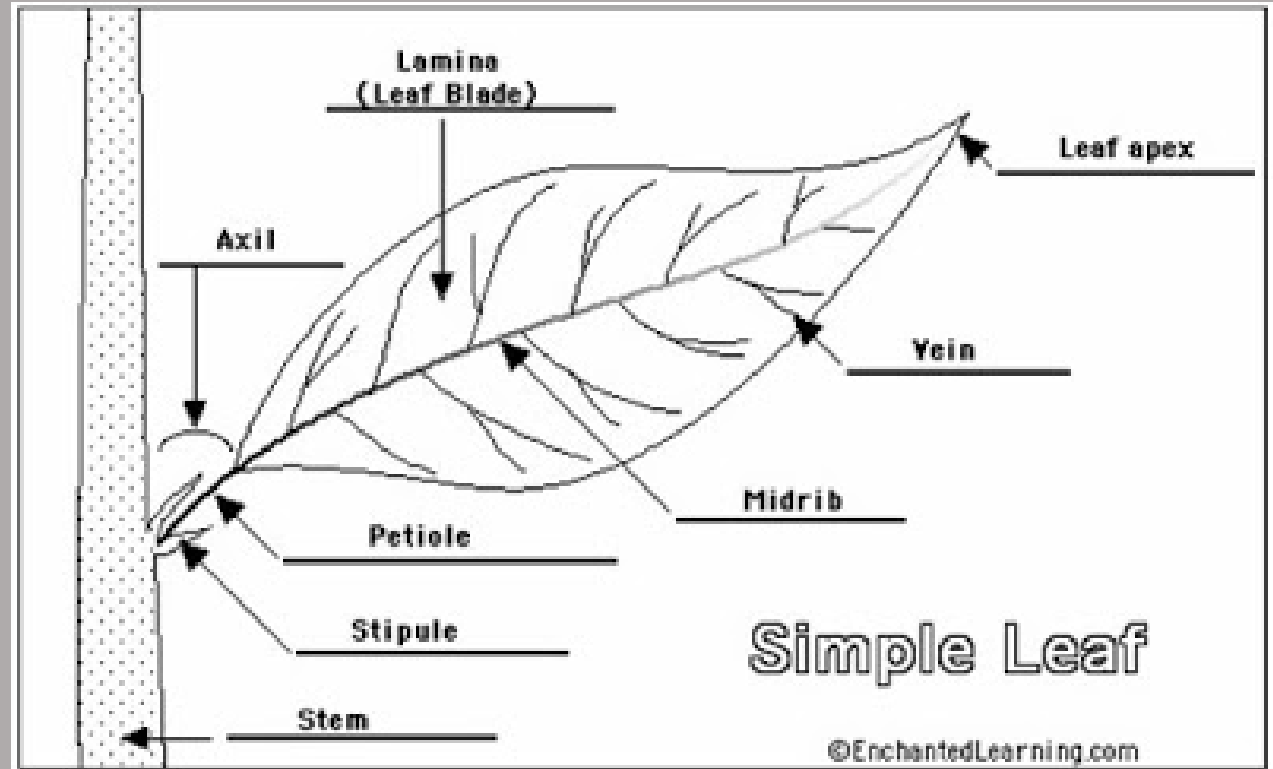
Leaf ID

4-H Forestry Judging



Simple Leaves

- One leaf attached to petiole
- Broke into 2 groups
 - Simple Alternate
 - Simple Opposite



red maple

- 3 primary lobes



sugar maple

- 5 lobes
- Shallow sinus



silver maple

- 5 pointy lobes
- Deep sinusus



flowering dogwood

- Football shaped
- Smooth margins
- Veins are NOT opposite



© Stephen M. Seiberling, University of North Carolina Herbarium



Next, the simple alternates...

- Sycamore
- Sweetgum
- Red Mulberry
- Oaks
- Tuliptree
- American Beech
- River birch
- Cottonwood
- Elms & Hackberry
- Blackgum
- Common persimmon
- Sassafras
- Sourwood

The ones with lobes.....

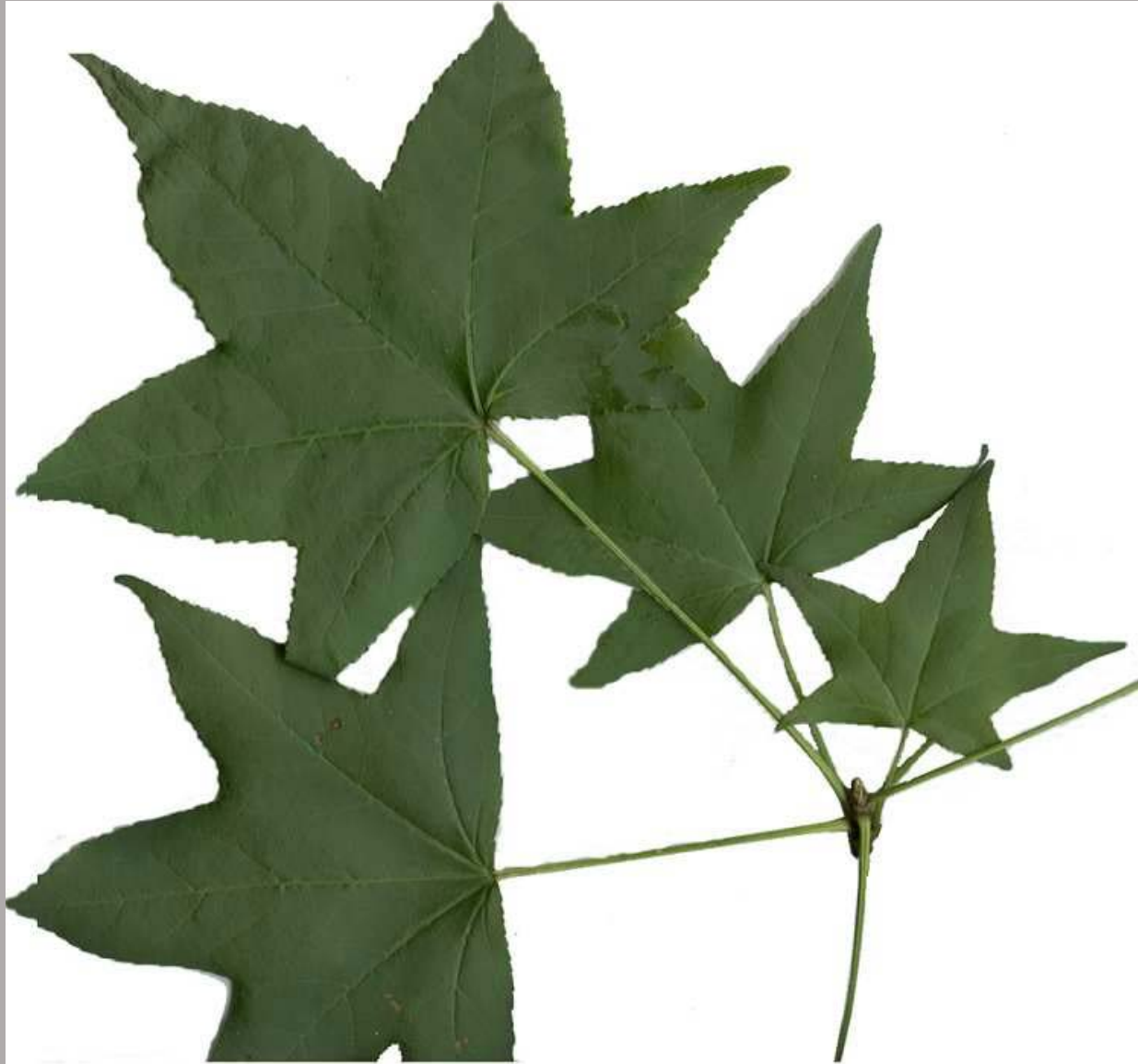
American sycamore

- Pointy lobes
- Serrations widely separated
- Feels brittle



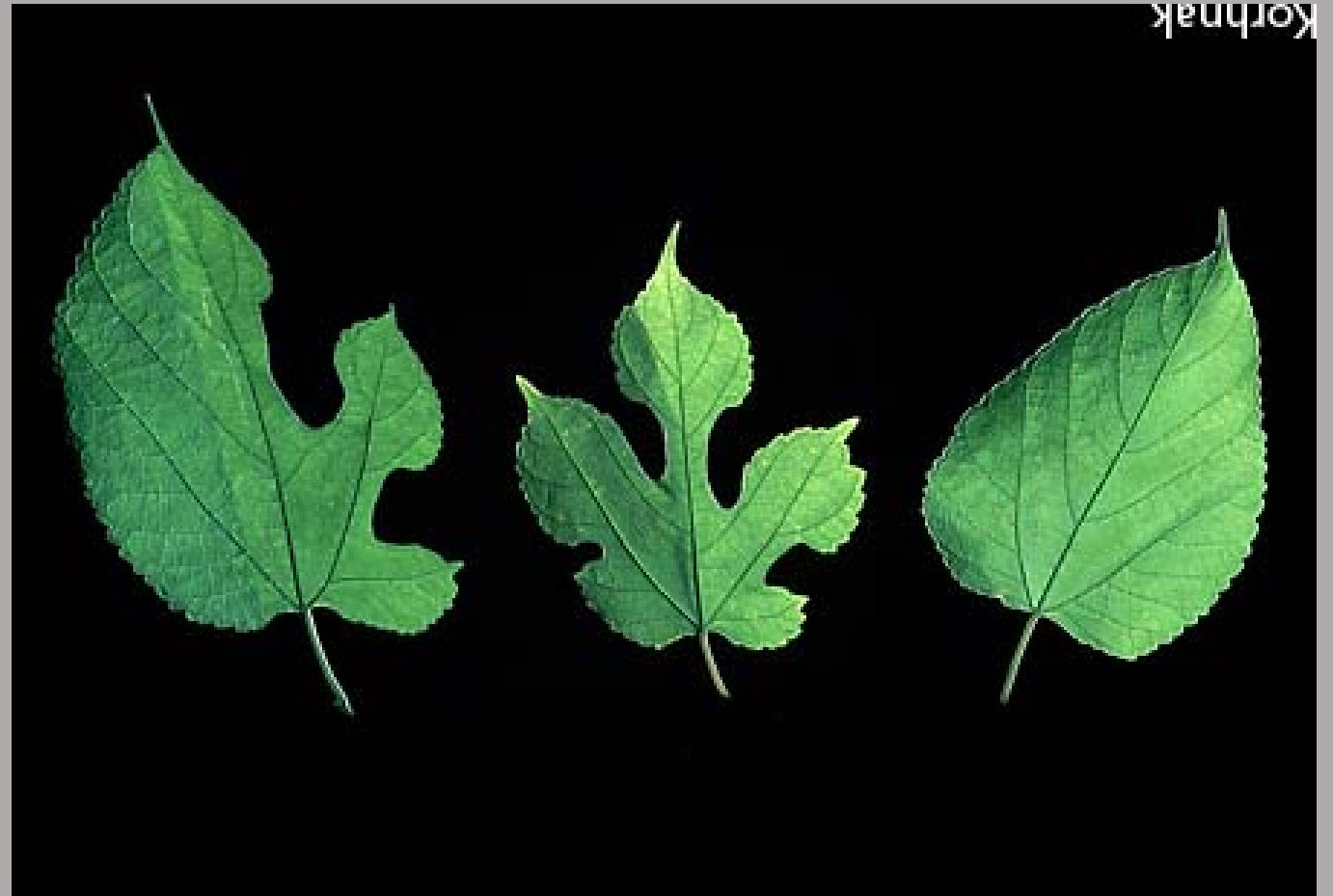
sweetgum

- Star shaped
- Small serrations



red mulberry

- Several variations
- Some do not have lobes
- All have small serrations
- Pointy tip
- Feels like sandpaper



Oaks

- Darker-green color
- Simple leaf
- Glossy finish/shine
- Lobes either rounded or pointy
 - *“red oaks”*
 - *“white oaks”*

northern red oak

- Large leaf
- 7-9 lobes
- Pointy tips



southern red oak

- Pointy tips on the lobes
- Bell shaped base
- “southern belle”



black oak

- Large, glossy green
- Wide, pointed lobes
- Backside has “rusty” brown hairs on the vein forks



scarlet oak

- Pointy tips on the lobes
- Deep sinus



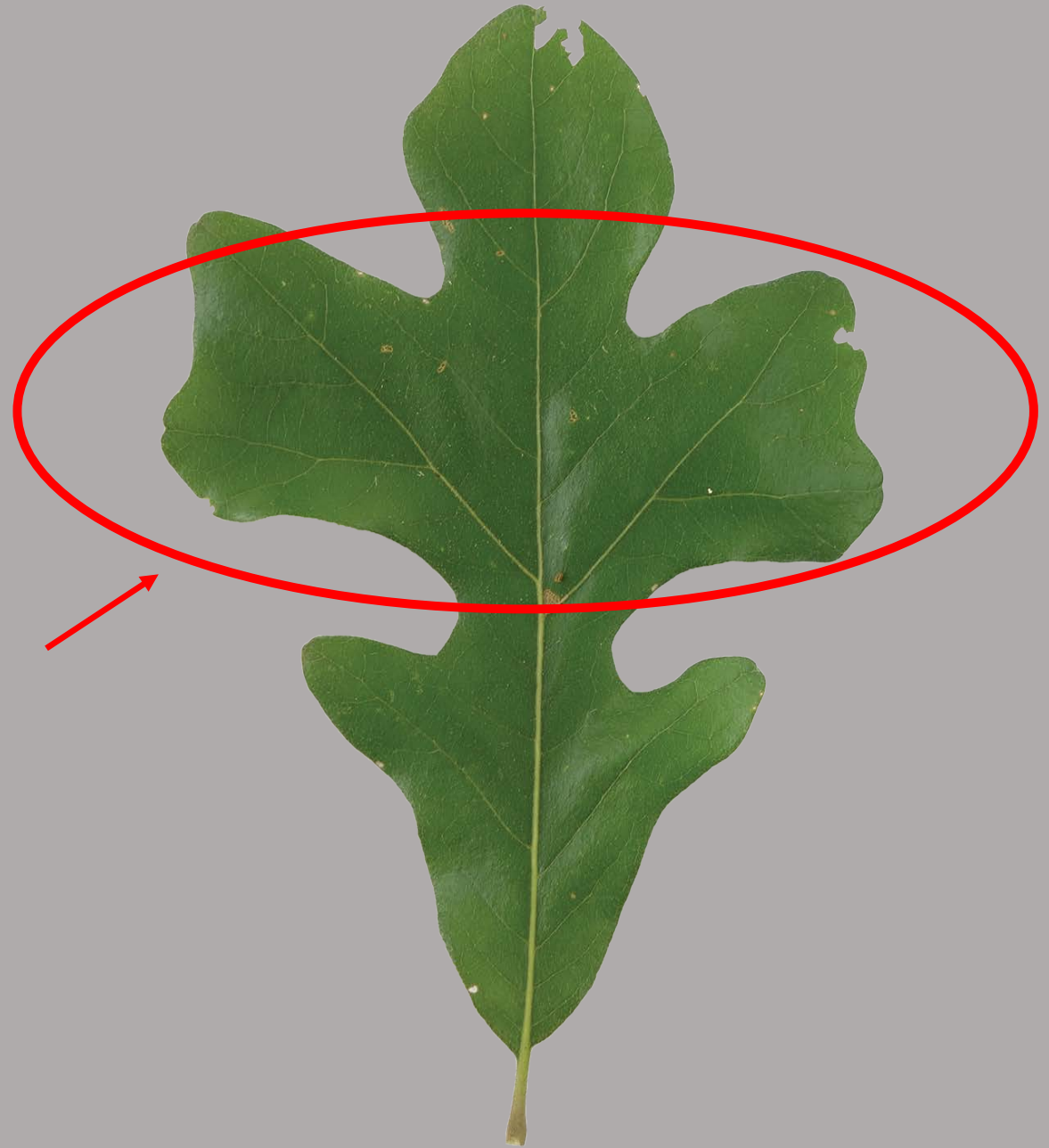
white oak

- Rounded tips (no points)
- 7-9 lobes
- Generally deep sinusus
- “classic” oak leaf



post oak

- Rounded lobes
- makes a horizontal “post” across the top-middle portion of leaf



chestnut oak

- Considered to be serrated (not lobed)
- Consistent rounded serrations around the margin



tuliptree

- 4 -6 lobes
- Tulip shape
- Smooth margins!
- Sinus size varies



The ones without lobes...

American beech

- Small, evenly spaced serrations
- Single veins
- Spear-tip branches

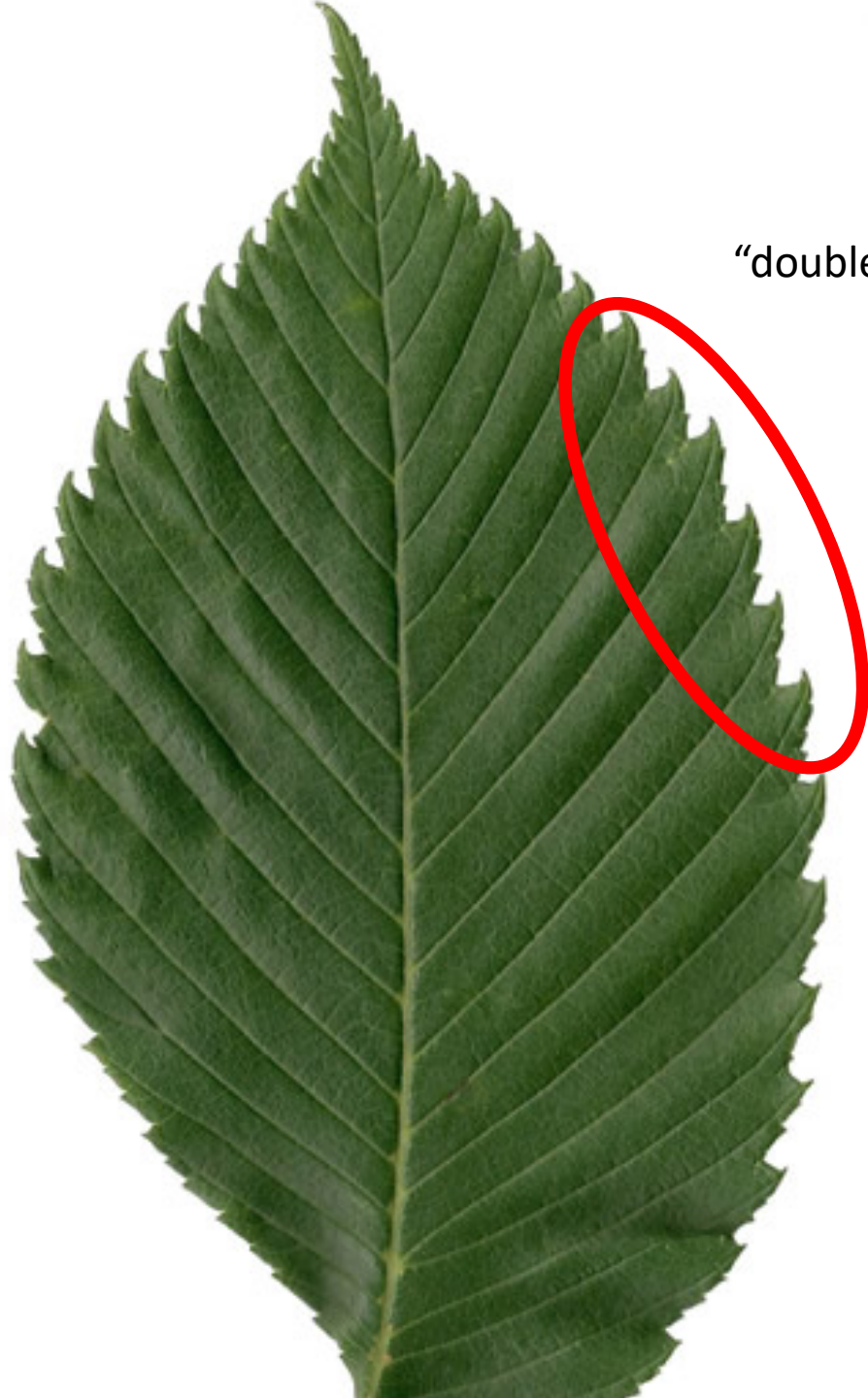


American elm

- Looks a lot like a beech tree
- Single veins
- Pointy serrations
- Feels rough like sand paper
- Has an uneven base



“double-toothed”



hackberry

- Looks a lot like an elm and beech





American beech



American elm



hackberry

river birch

- Wider at the base
- Small leaf
- “Christmas Tree” SHAPED



black cherry

- Very fine/small serrations
- Glossy shine
- Pointed tip



eastern cottonwood

- Wide base
- Rounded serrations
- Some tips are pointed, while some are more rounded off



willow

- Long, skinny leaf
- Fine serrations



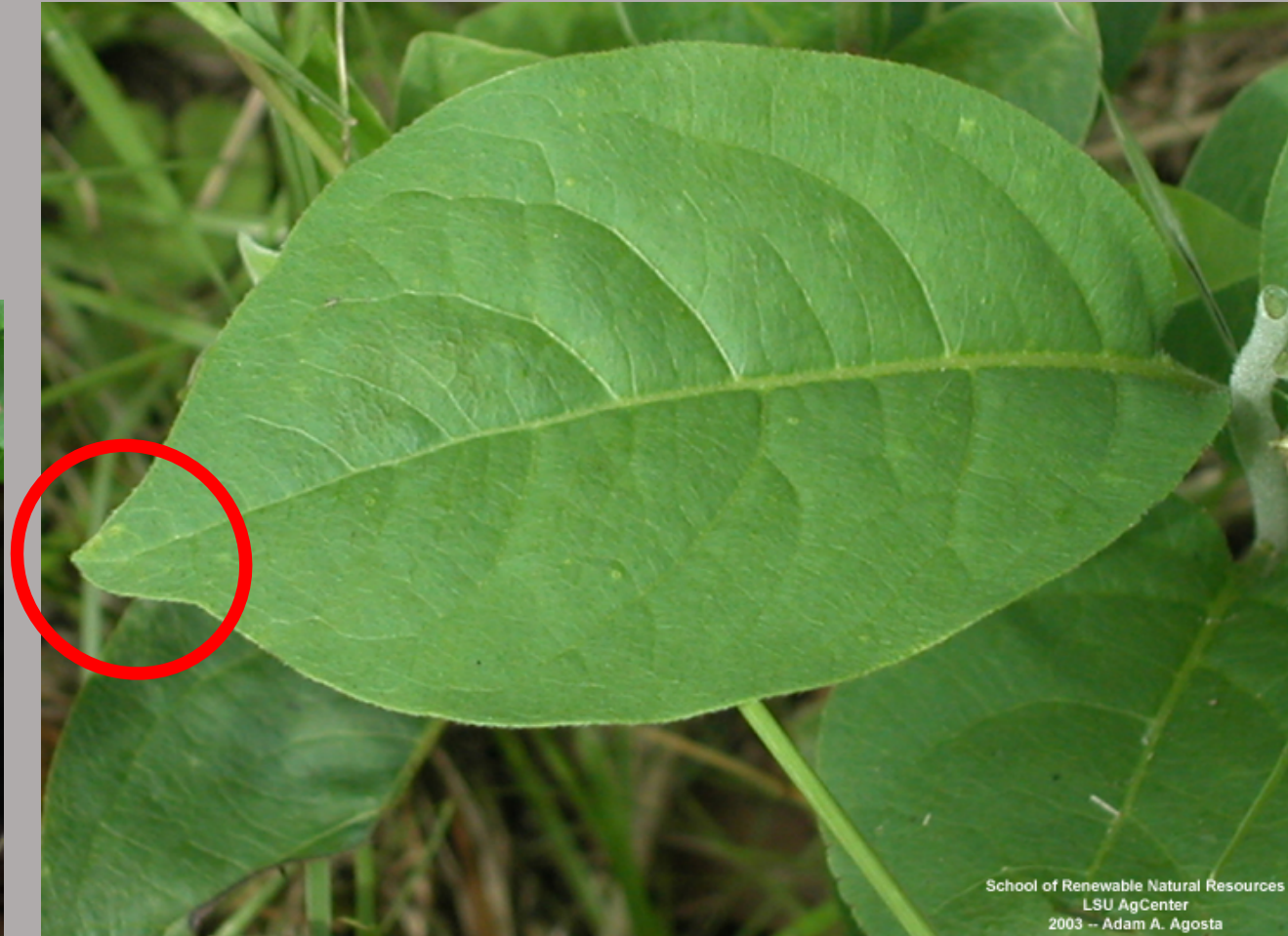
American holly

- Hard, waxy leaf
- Very sharp, pointy tips



common persimmon

- Smooth margins and smooth leaf texture
- Pointed tip



blackgum

- Looks like persimmon but has a shiny/waxy texture
- No serrations



sassafras

- 3 variations
 - No lobes
 - Mitten shaped
 - 3 lobes
- Smooth margins
- Base has even angles

