

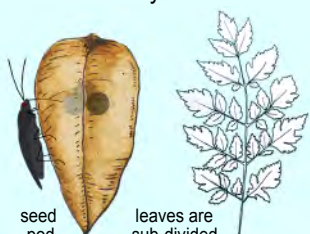
A guide to identification of common insect host plants

in Eastern North America


by Trevor Fowles & David R. Angelini

The soapberry family (Sapindaceae)


The soapberries can be identified by large air-filled pods with 1-6 seeds. Their leaves are very sub-divided.




seed pod leaves are sub-divided



Goldenrain tree (*Koelreuteria* sp.) Planted in urban and suburban streetsides and developments across the US.

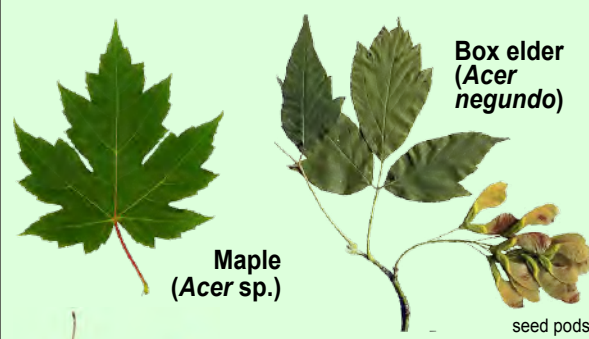


seed pod seeds



Balloon vine or Heartseed (*Cardiospermum* sp.)
Found in South Florida, the Gulf Coast, and the Lower Mississippi River.

Maples (part of the Sapindaceae)



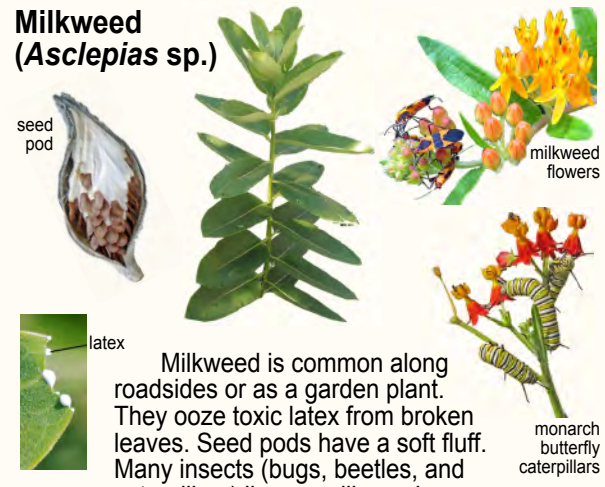
Box elder (*Acer negundo*)

Maple (*Acer* sp.)

seed pods

Maples are common trees with palm-shaped leaves. Their seeds are known as samaras, "maple keys", "helicopters", or "whirligigs".

Milkweed (*Asclepias* sp.)



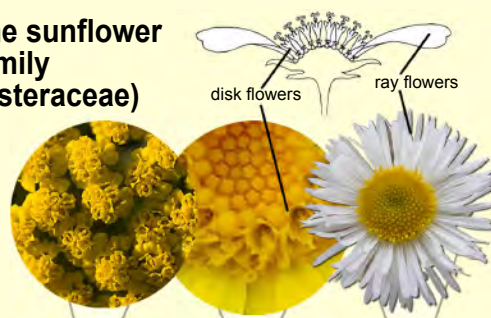
seed pod milkweed flowers

latex


Milkweed is common along roadsides or as a garden plant. They ooze toxic latex from broken leaves. Seed pods have a soft fluff. Many insects (bugs, beetles, and caterpillars) live on milkweed.

monarch butterfly caterpillars

The sunflower family (Asteraceae)



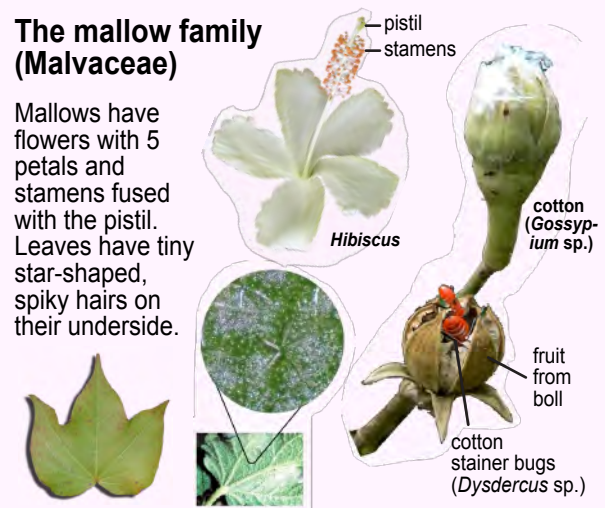
disk flowers ray flowers



yarrow (*Achillea* sp.) ragwort (*Senecio* sp.) fleabane (*Erigeron* sp.)

The mallow family (Malvaceae)

Mallows have flowers with 5 petals and stamens fused with the pistil. Leaves have tiny star-shaped, spiky hairs on their underside.



pistil stamens

Hibiscus

cotton (*Gossypium* sp.)

fruit from boll

cotton stainer bugs (*Dysdercus* sp.)