Arecaceae – palm family
*Washingtonia filifera*
California fanpalm

**Sight ID characteristics**
- Southwestern US
- Moist soils, streams and narrow mountain canyons; oases
- Trunk stout, straight, leaves tufted at top, 30-80 feet, without pruning the trunks skirted in dead leaves that extend nearly to ground (unless pruned)
- Leaves simple, palmately divided, fan shaped, 3 to 6 feet in diameter, margins fibrous, alternate, evergreen; petioles long and armed with curved teeth.
- Flowers small, white, occurring on large (several feet), branched clusters.
- Fruit a fleshy black drupe, nearly round, 1/3 to 1/2 inch.
- Trunk gray-brown, tough, splits vertically
Magnoliaceae – magnolia family
Magnolia grandiflora
evergreen magnolia

Sight ID characteristics

- Leaf: Alternate, simple, evergreen, oval to elliptical, 5 to 8 inches long, pinnate venation, entire margin; thick, waxy/shiny dark green above, paler with rusty pubescence below.
- Flower: Perfect, showy and fragrant, 6 to 8 inches wide with large white petals, many laminar stamens and many simple pistils arranged on elongate receptacle.
- Infructescence: Aggregate of follicles, green changing to red and later to brown, cylindrical, 3 to 5 inches long with a bright red seed (1/2 inch long) in each follicle.
- Twig: Stout, terminal bud with rusty pubescence, 1-1.5” long.
Magnoliaceae – magnolia family
Liriodendron tulipifera
yellow poplar, tulip tree

Sight ID characteristics

- **Leaf**: Alternate, simple, orbicular, 4-lobed, entire margin, 4 to 8 inches long, tip emarginate, shaped like a tulip.
- **Flower**: Perfect, showy, 2.5” long, tepals yellow-green with orange markings, many laminar stamens and many simple pistils arranged on elongate receptacle
- **Infructescence**: Aggregate of samaras, deciduous at maturity.
- **Twig**: Red-brown in color, often with a shiny appearance or a waxy bloom. Stipules large, encircling twig; buds scales valvate.
NOTES AND SKETCHES
Sight ID characteristics

- **Leaf**: Alternate, simple, ovate to elliptical, entire, 3-6” inches long with 1 to 3 irregular lobes; fragrant when crushed.
- **Flower**: Dioecious; small but quite showy, both male and females are bright yellow-green, borne in racemes.
- **Fruit**: Dark blue, ovoid, drupes; peduncle red, cupped.
- **Twig**: Slender, green, sometimes pubescent, spicy-sweet aroma when broken
NOTES AND SKETCHES
Lauraceae – laurel family
_Umbellularia californica_
California laurel

**Sight ID characteristics**

- **Leaf**: Alternate, simple, persistent, elliptical to lanceolate, 3-5” long, dark green and shiny above, pale below, margins entire, very aromatic when crushed.
- **Flower**: Perfect, inconspicuous, small and yellowish.
- **Fruit**: Blue-black drupe, ~3/4” in diameter, peduncle yellow, cupped.
- **Twig**: Round, slender, smooth, and initially light green, turning gray-brown with age.
NOTES AND SKETCHES
Platanaceae – sycamore family
*Platanus hybrida*
London plane tree

**Sight ID characteristics**

- **Leaf:** Alternate, simple, palmately lobed, palmate venation, 5-9” long/wide, coarsely toothed, subpetiolar buds.
- **Flower:** Not showy, monoecious; inflorescences usually paired.
- **Fruit:** Multiple: globose head of achenes (each achene winged with tuft of hairs 1/2”), usually borne in pairs, hanging from long, thin peduncle.
- **Twig:** Moderate zig-zag pattern, green, turning grayish brown, leaves cover axillary and terminal buds, buds conical, reddish and covered with a single scale, stipule scar encircles twig.
- **Bark:** Light brown/green, exfoliating into creamy, olive and yellow patches.
Sight ID characteristics

- **Leaf:** Alternate, simple, palmately lobed, palmate venation, 4-8” long/wide, coarsely toothed, subpetiolar buds., veins sometimes pubescent below.
- **Flower:** Monoecious, not showy, monoecious; inflorescence usually single per stalk.
- **Fruit:** Multiple: globose head of achenes (each achene winged with tuft of hairs 1/2”), usually borne singly, hanging from long, thin peduncle.
- **Twig:** Zigzag, orange-brown; leaf scar surrounds bud, stipule scar surrounds twig; terminal bud absent; lateral buds are reddish, resinous, with a single, cap-like scale.
- **Bark:** Thin, mottled brown, green, tan and white, exfoliating; older stems are gray-brown and scaly.
NOTES AND SKETCHES