Key to Leaves of Virginia Trees

I. Leaves broad; definitely not needle-like or scale-like, mostly deciduous

A. Leaves, buds, branches have opposite arrangement - maple, ash, dogwood

B. Leaves, buds, branches have alternate arrangement
   1. leaves are compound - walnut, hickories, locust
   2. leaves are simple
      a. leaves have rounded lobes - white oaks, sassafras, mulberry
      b. leaves have pointed lobes - red oaks, sycamore, sweet gum, holly
      c. leaves have no lobes
         i. leaves have smooth (entire) margins - willow oak, live oak, paw-paw, redbud, tupelo, persimmon, magnolia
         ii. leaves have toothed margins - willow, birch, true poplars, birch, beech, hornbeam, chestnut, elm, hackberry, cherry, sourwood, basswood.

II. Leaves needle-like (pines) or scale-like (cedar)

A. needles in clusters or bundles (pines)
   1. 5 needle clusters - white pine
   2. 3 needle clusters - loblolly pine, pitch pine
   3. 2-3 needle clusters - shortleaf pine
   4. 2 needle clusters - Virginia pine

B. needles appear singly, not in clusters
   1. needles 4-sided, roll between fingers - spruce
   2. needles 2-sided, do not roll - eastern hemlock
   3. needles feather-like, found growing in swamps - cypress

C. needles are scale-like, overlapping to make branches that look flat.
   1. fruit a berry-like cone - redcedar
   2. fruit like a small pine cone - white cedar