THE GENUS

*Fraxinus* L. (Oleaceae)

VEGETATIVE KEY TO SPECIES CULTIVATED IN WESTERN EUROPE

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www.arboretumwespelaar.be

Identification Keys

*Fraxinus* (a.o.)

+ comprehensive
+ vegetative characters
- experience needed

Look at the ENTIRE plant

(Beware of hybridisation)

www.oleaceae.info
Compound leaf

Leaflet

Rachis

Petiolule

Petiole
01a Shoot at least in part with lateral buds in whorls of three.  
F. angustifolia
Shoot, petiole and rachis densely softly pubescent.

*F. angustifolia* subsp. *oxycarpa*
Leaflet predominately 1, margin acutely serrate-dentate with 5-8 large teeth/side (teeth often >5mm). Sometimes lamina 1-2 lobed at base or with 2 small lateral leaflets at base.

*F. angustifolia* 'Monopylla'
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Leaflets predominately 3-5(1-7) and at least part of the shoot ends with short successive internodes ≤0,5-10 mm.

*F. angustifolia* subsp. *syriaca*
F. angustifolia subsp. syriaca
02 Current year shoot 4-ribbed. Second year shoot often with internodes 4-ribbed. (5 species)

e.g. F. quadrangulata
F. griffithii
08 a Petiole base remarkably swollen (at least 3-4 × the petiole width) AND partly clasping/covering its bud, often clustering at and hiding shoot end (2 species)
F. platypoda

F. spaethiana
10 a  All leaves small, average size (including petiole) <5 cm. Leaflets 3-7, margin entire.  

F. greggii
14  a  Terminal bud grey. Basal leaflet base rounded to obliquely truncate.  

F. sieboldiana
14 b Terminal bud brown. Basal leaflet base (broadly) cuneate.

F. velutina
22 a Leaflet apex obtuse or varying from acute to obtuse. Leaflets 7-11, margin finely dentate. 

*F. xanthoxyloidoides*
26 b Rachis narrowly grooved. Leaflets ovate oblong to lanceolate, margin regularly serrate to crenulate serrate. *F. floribunda*
27  a  Terminal bud and first lateral buds distantly placed.  

F. nigra

F. excelsior
29 b Base of petiolule LS clearly dense to cushion-like rusty pubescent.

*F. mandshurica*
39  a  Terminal leaflet with secondary veins $\leq 6$/side.

*F. bungeana*
41  a  Leaflets with secondary veins irregularly placed AND/OR 5-15 mm apart.  

F. chinensis
Leaflets ovate to oblong elliptic **AND** apex obtuse to (abruptly) acute, **BUT** sometimes extremely variable on the same tree from obtuse to acuminate.

*F. ornus*
F. ornus
43 a  Leaf scar apex predominantly truncate, not enclosing lateral bud. e.g. F. pennsylvanica
43 b Leaf scar apex predominantly clearly notched to concave and partly enclosing lateral bud.

e.g. F. americana
44 a  Terminal bud apex obtuse AND length ≤ width (shoot, petiole and petiolules pubescent).

*F. biltmoreana*
44 b Terminal bud apex acute **AND**
length > width

e.g. *F. pennsylvanica*
F. baroniana