



GROWING NATIVE

Growing Native Tree Stumpers!

B · I · N · G · O

Included in this packet:

- Instructions and materials list
- 21 tree ID cue cards
- Tree descriptions list (no pictures)
- Approx. 100 acorn chips
- 10 *Bingo* cards

LEADER INSTRUCTIONS

Tree Stumpers Bingo is designed for players of all ages. The object of *Tree Stumpers Bingo* is to help volunteers identify common native tree species of the Potomac River watershed by their leaf and seed characteristics. This exercise will aid their efforts in collecting seeds for *Growing Native*. The species chosen for the game are derived from the desired tree species list found on the *Growing Native* website, www.growingnative.org.

If you downloaded *Tree Stumpers Bingo* packet from www.growingnative.org, please print the file and distribute copies of the tree descriptions list to your volunteers. More information on tree identification can be found on our website and in the “Resources” section of this packet. The *Tree Stumpers Bingo* cards and the tree ID cue cards should be printed in color, if possible. Cut out the cue cards along their borders, and laminate if desired. These cue cards and tree descriptions lists can be used as resources for your volunteers when they collect seeds for a *Growing Native* collection season!

Below you will find instructions for playing *Tree Stumpers Bingo* in three difficulty levels. Level 1 is easy, Level 2 is moderately difficult, and Level 3 is difficult. Find an appropriate level for your audience, but allow time for the volunteers to familiarize themselves with the tree species. You may wish to begin, briefly, with the easy level, so that players are familiar with the game.

Project of:



Sponsored by:



Before you begin play:

- Photocopy the tree descriptions list (without pictures) and distribute to groups of players. Review this list with the players and go over any unfamiliar vocabulary terms used in tree identification.
- You may wish to provide examples of seeds and leaves to help players recognize the connection between the pictures on the bingo cards and the local tree species they represent. The players can then use these seeds and leaves as study aids. In addition, you can ask volunteers to go outside and try to identify trees in their neighborhood.
- Have the players match the written descriptions on the tree descriptions list with the photos on a bingo card and study how to identify the various tree species. Once the player identifies each tree species on their card, have he or she switch with another student or group and begin play with the new, unfamiliar card.

Tree Stumpers Bingo (Level 1):

- Begin by distributing the bingo cards to players. If more than 10 volunteers are playing, divide them into pairs or groups.
- Shuffle the 21 tree ID cue cards face-down on a table. Randomly choose one card at a time and call out the tree name, holding it up so all the players can see the picture. Read the leaf and seed descriptions aloud. Give players plenty of time to puzzle out which species is being described.
- Players should work to match the images and verbal descriptions with the pictures shown on their *Tree Stumpers Bingo* cards. When they find a match, they should cover that space with an acorn chip and wait for the next species to be announced.
- The first to complete a row, column, or diagonal of four across wins! The *Growing Native* logo squares are free spaces.
- After every two rounds, players shuffle or trade *Tree Stumpers Bingo* cards so that the players don't memorize the picture placements on any one particular card.

Tree Stumpers Bingo (Level 2):

- When reading out the cue cards, begin by stating the species name. Pause, and then read the descriptions out loud. After reading the descriptions, show the images on the cue cards. This creates a more competitive environment that encourages players to become better at identifying the species so that they can be the first to call out "Bingo!"

Tree Stumpers Bingo (Level 3):

- For this level, don't show the players the pictures on the cue cards at all. Begin by calling out the species name, and then pause. After a moment, read out the descriptions of leaves and seeds. After playing at this level for a few rounds, volunteers should be able to identify the pictures on their cards after hearing only the species name.

Tree Stumpers Bingo (Challenge Level):

- Have volunteers go out and gather leaf and seed examples of the various species included in the *Tree Stumpers Bingo* game, and bring them back to the classroom. Then, play Bingo by holding up or passing around the plant material of each species. This will push players to identify the tree species by its natural characteristics alone. Play at this level a few times throughout the year, challenging volunteers to learn tree identification no matter what the season.

Resources/Cue card description citations:

- <http://www.oplin.org/tree/index.html>
Clear and easy-to-use online leaf identification key (“dichotomous key”) from the Ohio Public Library Information Net. It describes many trees commonly found in temperate North America, and is a great tool to use for leaf identification practice.
 - How to use: have volunteers gather leaves from their backyards or the Bingo site. They then step through the leaf key, answering yes/no questions about the shape and characteristics of their leaf, finally narrowing it down to the species or genera level. This is how most hard-copy field guides work, and can be used as an online introduction to pocket field guides that students can use anywhere, such as those by Peterson or the Audubon Society.
- http://www.naturalresources.umd.edu/Backyard/Supplemental_Resources.cfm#TreeID
Contains a wealth of links on tree information in Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania, including a number of online keys. Several of the forestry/natural resource departments also have pamphlet-style keys available for mail order at \$1 or so per copy.
- <http://www.cnr.vt.edu/DENDRO/DENDROLOGY/IDIT.HTM>
Virginia Tech online dichotomous key.
- <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/FORESTRY/COMMONTR/INDEX.ASPX>
Common trees of Pennsylvania, by name. Online or PDF (printer-friendly) formats available.
- <http://www.invasive.org/eastern/midatlantic/>
Invasive species of the mid-Atlantic, described by common name and with detailed photographs.