

Tree-of-heaven look alike

Tree-of-heaven is most likely to be confused with other trees and shrubs with pinnately compound leaves. It is easiest to tell the species apart when leaves are present, though leaf scars, flowers, and fruits can also aid identification.



Tree-of-heaven leaf

Species	Branching	Leaves
Tree-of-heaven (<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>)	Alternate	1-4 ft long; 11-25 leaflets; toothless , but may have one to several blunt glandular teeth at base of leaflet
Sumacs (<i>Rhus spp.</i>)	Alternate	Up to 1 ½ ft long; 9-25 leaflets; toothed
Walnut, butternut (<i>Juglans spp.</i>)	Alternate	Up to 2 ft long; 11-19 leaflets; finely toothed
Ash (<i>Fraxinus spp.</i>)	Opposite	Shorter, up to 1 ½ ft long; 5-13 leaflets; finely toothed