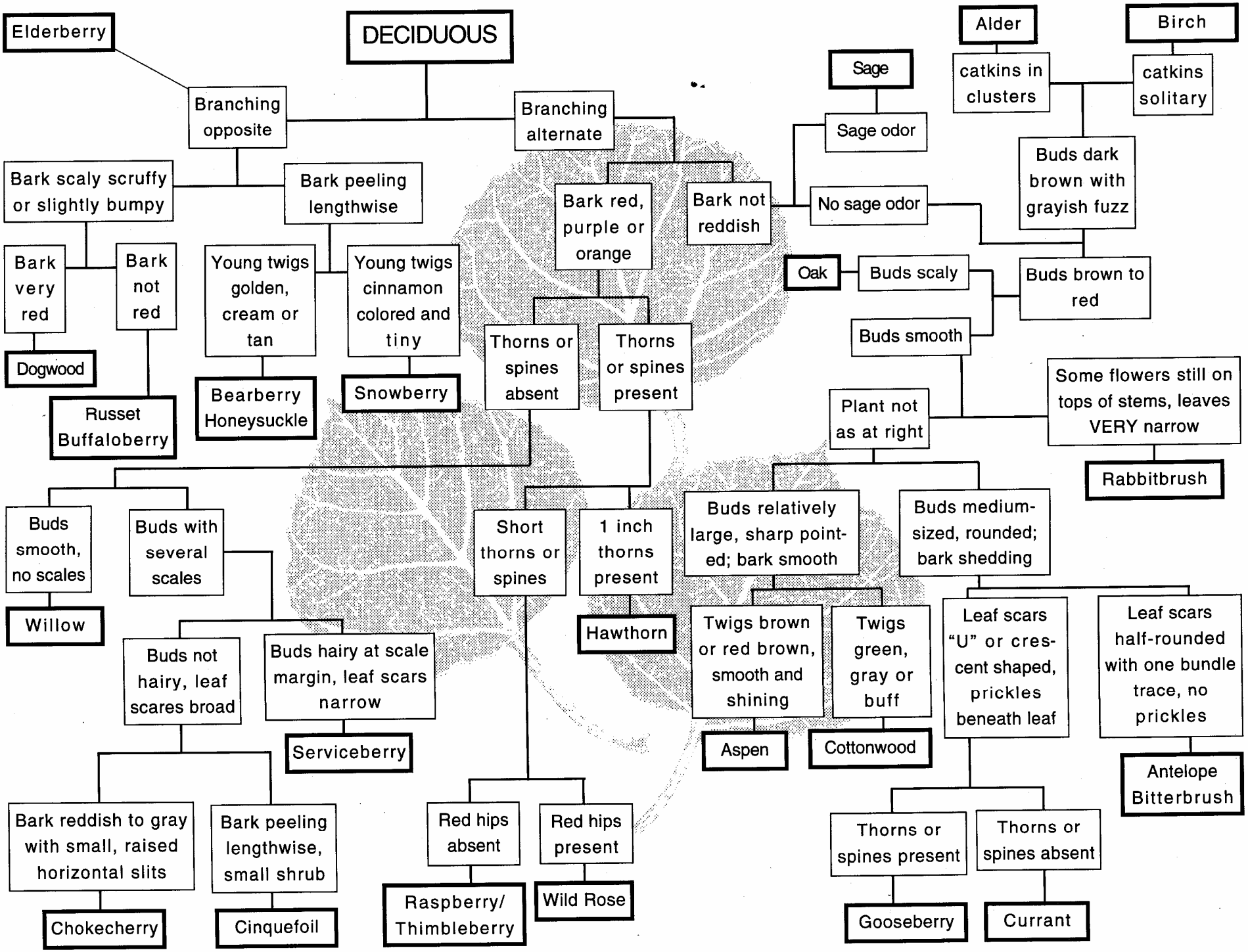
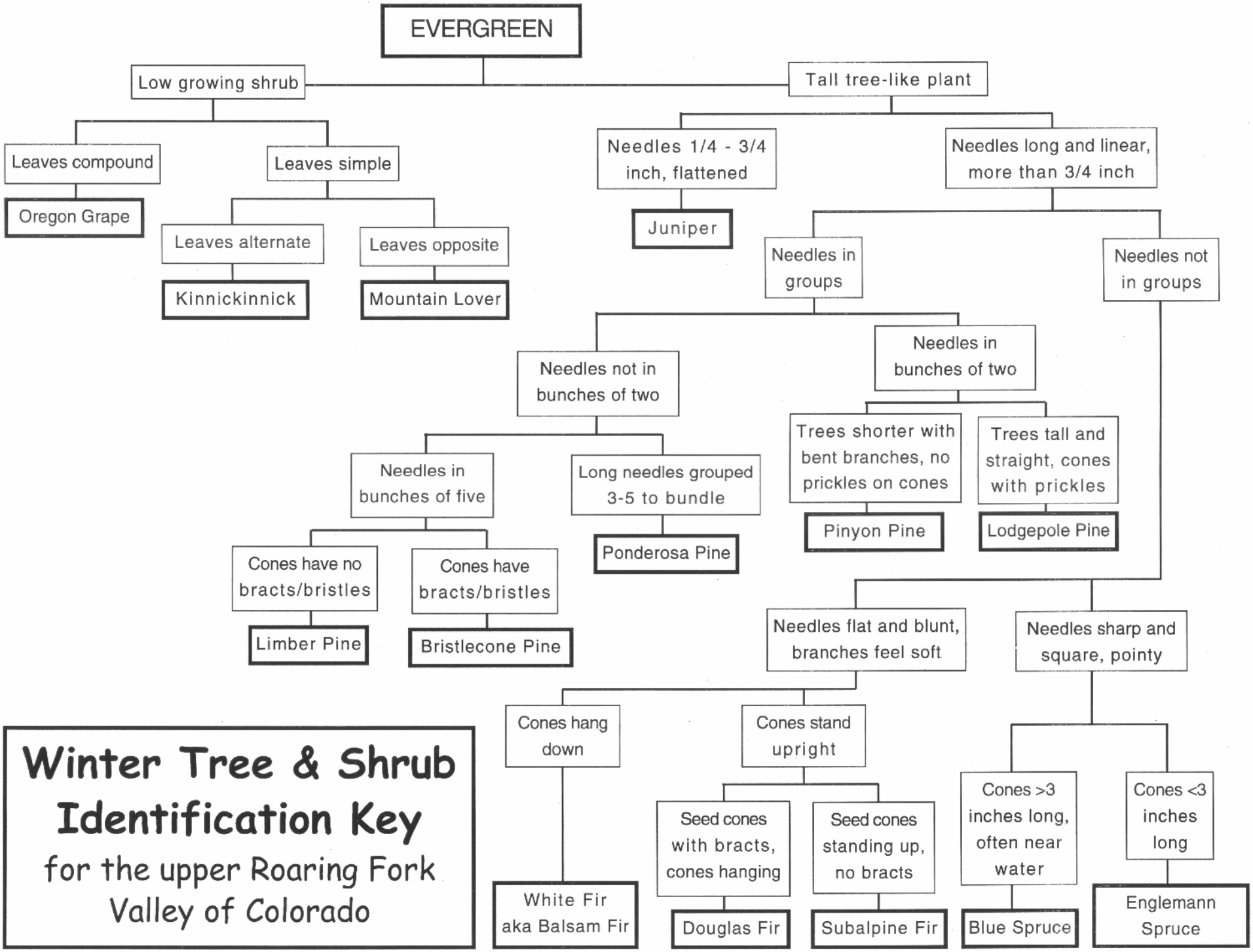

DECIDUOUS
Branching opposite
Branching alternate
Elderberry
Bark scaly scruffy or slightly bumpy
Bark peeling lengthwise
Bark very red
Bark not red
Dogwood
Russet Buffaloberry
Young twigs golden, cream or tan
Young twigs cinnamon colored and tiny
Bearberry Honeysuckle
Snowberry
Bark red, purple or orange
Bark not reddish
Thorns or spines absent
Thorns or spines present
Buds smooth, no scales
Willow
Buds with several scales
Buds not hairy, leaf scares broad
Buds hairy at scale margin, leaf scars narrow
Serviceberry
Bark reddish to gray with small, raised horizontal slits
Chokecherry
Bark peeling lengthwise, small shrub
Cinquefoil
Short thorns or spines
1 inch thorns present
Hawthorn
Red hips absent
Red hips present
Raspberry/ Thimbleberry
Wild Rose
Sage
Sage odor
No sage odor
Oak
Buds scaly
Buds smooth
Buds brown to red
Alder
Birch
catkins in clusters
catkins solitary
Buds dark brown with grayish fuzz
Plant not as at right
Some flowers still on tops of stems, leaves VERY narrow
Rabbitbrush
Buds relatively large, sharp pointed; bark smooth
Buds medium-sized, rounded; bark shedding
Twigs brown or red brown, smooth and shining
Twigs green, gray or buff
Aspen
Cottonwood
Leaf scars "U" or crescent shaped, prickles beneath leaf
Leaf scars half-rounded with one bundle trace, no prickles
Antelope Bitterbrush
Thorns or spines present
Thorns or spines absent
Gooseberry
Currant

Winter Tree & Shrub Identification Key

for the upper Roaring Fork Valley of Colorado