Three [3] easy* steps to identify an Ash tree
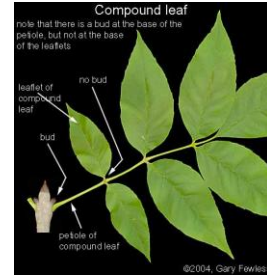
1. **Ash trees have a compound leaves:**
   a. **Leaves come in to basic forms** <u>simple & compound</u>

Simple is one leaf on a stem like the maple leaf on the Canadian flag	**Compound** leaves have a long stem called a rachis and many leaflets but altogether it is a single leaf.

2. **Ash trees have opposite branching patterns**
   a. **Trees branch out in to basic forms** <u>opposite & alternate</u>

Opposite can be described as two branches grow from the main branch directly on either side of the main branch	**Alternate** can be described as two branches growing from the main branch alternately on either side of the main branch

3. **Ash trees have a unique bark that can be described as looking like a fishnet in its basic pattern.**

Fishnet like bark pattern:

For the most part; a compound leaf, opposite branching, & fishnet bark equals an Ash Tree (there are some minor exceptions).

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* Just to be clear the 1st rule of tree ID is the saying ***it is always true except for when it isn't***. Just when you go to apply the rules above some natural or manmade activity will prune one of the opposite branches in your field of view, blow off the leaflets you're focusing on, or some car accident will damage the bark of the tree. Make sure you look at the predominance of branches, leaves, etc. before locking in your tree ID as Ash