

iPhone apps that help identify trees

Leafsnap

Scientists have developed an iPhone and iPod Touch app that allows you to photograph the leaf of a tree and the app will identify the tree in question. The app is called Leafsnap, is free and was developed through a joint initiative by **Columbia University**, the **University of Maryland**, and the **Smithsonian Institution** in the US. The app uses the same technology as face-recognition software to identify the tree species. Leafsnap cost about \$2.5 million to develop and will cost another \$1 million to expand it within the next 18 months to cover all the trees of the US. Leafsnap currently includes the tree species of New York and Washington, D.C., but will soon be expanded to cover all trees species of the United States.

<http://leafsnap.com/>

<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/leafsnap/id430649829?mt=8>

ForestXplorer

Forestry Commission England has launched a free iPhone app to assist people find a local UK woodland, download handy trail maps or learn about trees with an easy to use tree identifier. The award-winning app is available to download from iTunes. The educational and fun app includes a photo gallery, UK common tree identifier and unique computer generated tree illustrations. Users can identify a tree using its bark, seed or leaf within just a few clicks. Visitors can also download pdf trail maps via GPS so that the app can still be used when exploring amongst the trees and out of phone signal range.

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/mobileapp>

<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/forestxplorer/id428559042?mt=8>