

Tree Diagram

The main parts of a tree are the **crown** with all the branches and leaves, the **trunk** from which we get such things as lumber, maple syrup, and paper products, and the **roots** which feed the tree and keep the wind from blowing it down.

Trees also have some other important parts. The **bark** is the “armor” which protects the tree from insects and disease. Your skin is your armor, so you should be as careful about cutting the bark of a tree as you would your skin. If you do cut the bark, clean the wound and cover it. The **cambium** is a thin green layer just inside the inner bark. Each spring and summer the cambium grows a new layer of wood and a new layer of inner bark, making what we call **annual rings**. The **sapwood** is the light-colored wood from the cambium inward to the dark-colored wood near the center of the tree called **heartwood**. The heartwood is very strong and helps keep the trunk from breaking during high winds. It also helps support the heavy **crown**.

