

## Dichotomous Key Requirements

- a unique series of questions identifies each plant
- each question has only two choices (dichotomous)
- questions can be answered from visual observations someone could make of the plant specimen in the classroom
- can not use plant name ex: “has a typical maple leaf shape”
- must have only one way to answer the question, no “it depends”
- questions can be used more than once, in a different question series
- \*each question is identified by a number and letter
- \*each question gives a question number option or identifies the plant
- \*common name and scientific name included. Scientific names are always written in *italics*, with the first word capitalized and the second word lower case (for example, *Elymus glaucus*).

\*formal write-up only