

# Branches in Winter

It is officially winter and officially a new year. Time to start observing what is going on in our garden, in our neighborhood, on our walk. Choose a few different branches and compare their growth patterns, scars, color etc.

Look for buds on winter stems. Often terminal buds on cut stems will open if put in water and you can sketch the daily or weekly changes.



These stems are so interesting to draw and can be the beginning of a great relationship.

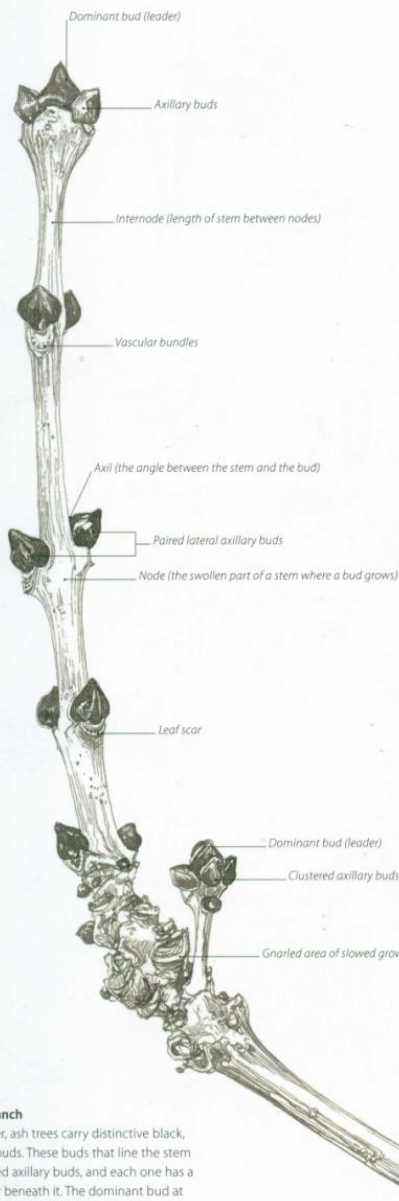
Here are some things to look for:

- ❖ Shape and pattern of the bundle scars.
- ❖ Look for an irregular series of lines that circle the twig, marking a year's growth.
- ❖ When adding color, use our color mixes for subtle browns and grays- try complements or adding color to browns.

Red-green									
Blue-yellow									
Yellow-violet									

*"Each new year is a surprise to us. We find that we had virtually forgotten the note of each bird, and when we hear it again, it is remembered like a dream, reminding us of a previous state of existence. How happens it that the associations it awakens are always pleasing, never saddening, reminiscences of our sanest hours. The voice of nature is always encouraging. "... Henry David Thoreau*

Nina Antze  
Drawing Nature



**Ash branch**  
In winter, ash trees carry distinctive black, paired buds. These buds that line the stem are called axillary buds, and each one has a leaf scar beneath it. The dominant bud at the tip of a stem (also known as the apical bud) has no leaf scar.  
European ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*)