



Plants: Riddles in Rhyme

What are these riddles referring to?

What deer, some birds,
And squirrels need:
Many eat this
Large, brown seed.

Anywhere
That they may be,
Let alone
These leaves of three.

Using
CO₂ and sun,
Making food
Is number one.

Fewer in spring,
In summer galore,
Dying in fall,
In winter, no more.

Keeping safe
Each little seed;
Then lets go
And off they speed.

Here is where
Its food is made,
Using sun,
But not the shade.

Dark green, oval
Prickly, too,
Holds to branches
All year through.

Round and gold
With tiny spines,
Hanging from
The forest pines.

Thin and sharp
Where leaves might be,
Lets the stem
Do chemistry.

On the outside,
Thick and rough;
Protects its tree
By being tough.

Ripe in summer,
Red or blue;
Mammals love them;
Birds do, too.

No leaves, but spines
In place of them;
Food comes from
The fleshy stem.

Leaves on trees
Where mist drops fall,
Perhaps the tallest
Trees of all.

Long and pointed,
Stiff and strong
Show green beauty
All year long.

Beautiful
Before it's fallen,
Attracting insects
To its pollen.

Long, thin blades
Can sway with grace;
Roots below
Hold soil in place.

*Acorn / deciduous leaves / live oak leaves / bark / coast redwood / poison oak / seed pod /
pine cone / berries / pine needles / photosynthesis / leaf / spines / prickly pear (or other
cactus) / flower / grass*