

Native Idaho Forest Tree Identification

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IDAHO
master
GARDENER
A UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO
EXTENSION PROGRAM

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	<u>Common Names</u>	<u>Cone ID</u>	<u>Needle ID</u>	<u>Other Key Clues</u>
Western White Pine (State Tree)	Idaho White Pine	Look like green bananas. 5-15" long & curved	FIVE needles per bundle	Five letters, referring to needle count. Five=Pine
Ponderosa Pine	Yellow Pine; Bull Pine	Egg-shaped, size of a small hand when mature. Each scale has a small prickle on the tip	THREE needles per bundle. Long needles, length varies	
Lodgepole Pine	Jack Pine; Black Pine	Golf ball size	TWO needles per bundle. 1-3", twisted.	
Western Larch	Tamarack		20-30" soft needles. Needles emanate from "nubs" called spur shoots.	Only deciduous conifers.
Grand Fir	White Fir	Green, barrel shaped cones, 3-5" long	Soft needles singly attached.	Blunt buds. Flat needle arrangement.
Subalpine Fir	White Fir; Alpine Fir; Balsam Fir;	Purple cones.	Singly attached. Less than 1" tend to be massed on the upper side.	Blunt buds. Good Christmas tree.
Douglas-Fir	Red Fir; Doug Fir	Distinctive 3-forked bract under each cone scale-like a pitch fork or mouse's hind feet and tail 3-4" long	Singly attached. Soft needles.	Pointy buds.
Engelmann Spruce	Spruce	1-2" papery, tan with irregularly toothed tips	Singly attached. Sharp needles.	Infested by Cooley Spruce Gall Adelgid. Pointy buds.

	<u>Common Names</u>	<u>Cone ID</u>	<u>Needle ID</u>	<u>Other Key Clues</u>
Western Redcedar	Cedar	½” cones that bend back on the branch	Scaly green foliage.	
Western Hemlock	Hemlock	1” abundant tan, papery, egg shaped	¼-¾” long. “Fern like” foliage.	Top and branches floppy or drooping.
Pacific Yew	Yew		Singly attached. Flatly arranged. Not sharp. Dark green on top – lighter green underneath.	Bright red, pea sized fruits called “arils”.
Black Cottonwood (Broadleaf)	Cottonwood; Poplar	BUDS ¾” long, very large & resinous , fragrant	LEAVES dark green on top, whitish below.	In fall, leaves turn bright yellow.
Quaking Aspen (Broadleaf)	Aspen; Popple	Small buds	Roundish, heart shaped, pale green leaves. 1.25-3.5” across.	“Quake” from long, flat petiole at right angle from leaf blade. More visible bud scales.
Paper Birch (Broadleaf)	White Birch; Birch	Elongated fruiting bodies of disintegrating papery scales	Doubly serrated leaves 2-3”long.	Peeling white bark. Bronze Birch Borer very destructive.
Alder spp. (Broadleaf)	Alder	<1” long woody cones. Buds on stalks	2-5” long, corrugated looking leaves	