

Conifer I.D. Chart

What kind of tree is that? Hint: Just because it has pine needles and pine cones doesn't mean it's a PINE TREE! Learn about Maine's different conifer trees below — like the state tree, the Eastern White Pine, which may be on Maine's new flag if a vote passes this November!



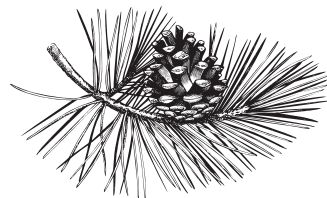
Eastern White Pine Tree:

The Eastern White Pine is Maine's state tree and the white pine cone and tassel is Maine's state flower! The needles of the White Pine Tree are about 3–4" long and grow in clusters of five. The pine cones are about 5" long and cylindrical.



Red Pine (aka. Norway Pine):

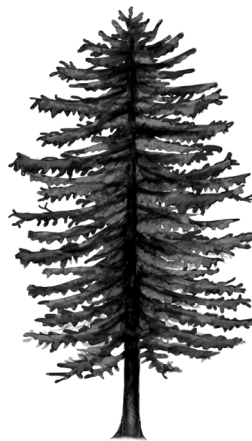
Red pines have dry, flaky bark that flakes from the trunk easily. The needles are 4–6" long and grow in pairs. The pinecones are rounder than those of the Eastern White Pine.



Balsam Fir: The most common softwood in Maine and commonly used to make paper and grown as Christmas trees. Balsam Fir is the only native fir to Maine, although others grow here. The needles are 1" long and flat with a blunt end.



Eastern Hemlock: Eastern Hemlock is the only Hemlock native to Maine. Hemlock grows on cool, north-facing slopes because it prefers the shade. The needles are flat and usually 1/2–2/3" of an inch long. Hemlock cones are small — about 2/3" — and grow in clusters at ten end of the twigs.



Tamarack: Tamarack trees are the only Maine softwood that loses all its needles in the fall. In the summer, the needles grow in clusters. The needles are soft to the touch and, come fall, turn yellow before dropping off the tree.