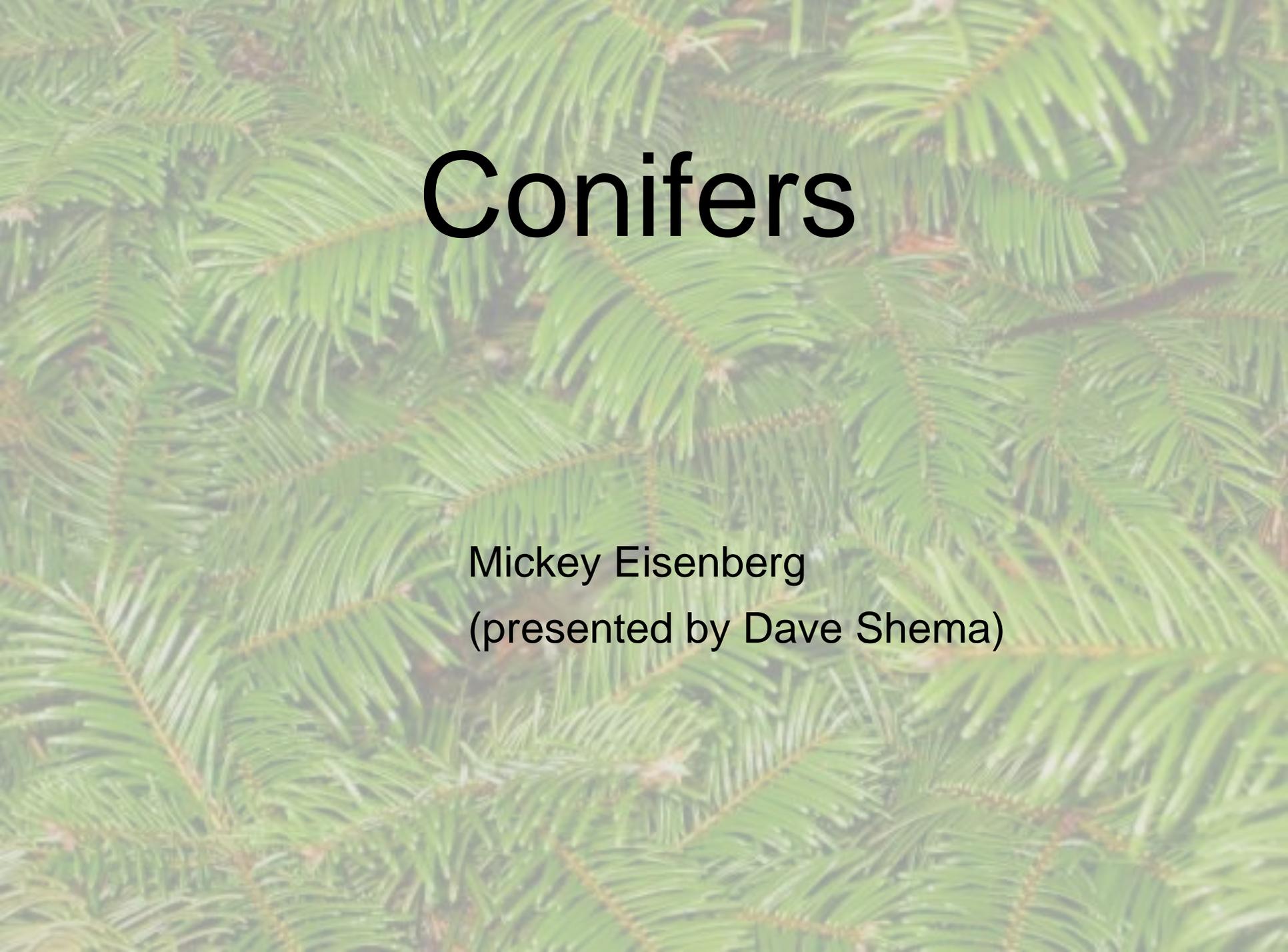


Of all the wonders of nature, a tree in summer is perhaps the most remarkable; with the possible exception of a moose singing "Embraceable You" in spats.

Woody Allen

The background of the slide is a close-up, slightly blurred photograph of green conifer needles. The needles are arranged in a dense, overlapping pattern, creating a textured, natural background. The lighting is soft, highlighting the vibrant green color of the foliage.

# Conifers

Mickey Eisenberg  
(presented by Dave Shema)



**Hundreds of birds  
Thousands of flowers  
But only 18 conifers!**

# Conifers: Only 18

Pines (4)	Playing in the
Firs (5)	Forest
Spruces (2)	Should
Hemlocks (2)	Help
Yew (1)	You
Larches (2)	Learn
Cedars (2)	Conifers

The Wall Street Journal bestseller — now revised and updated!

# Conifers Cascade Conifers

## FOR DUMMIES

4th Edition

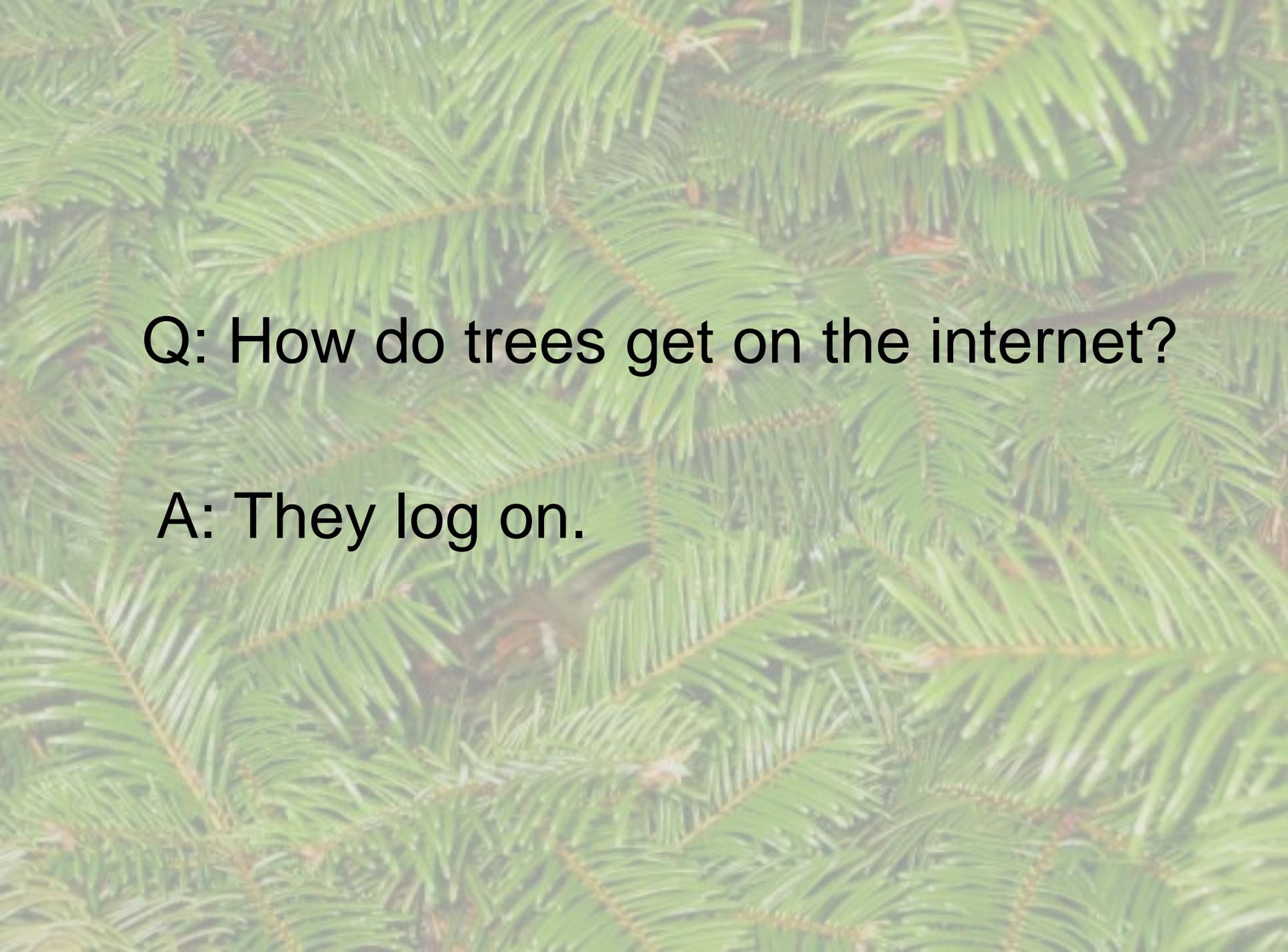
The latest on how  
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**Paul Bunyan**





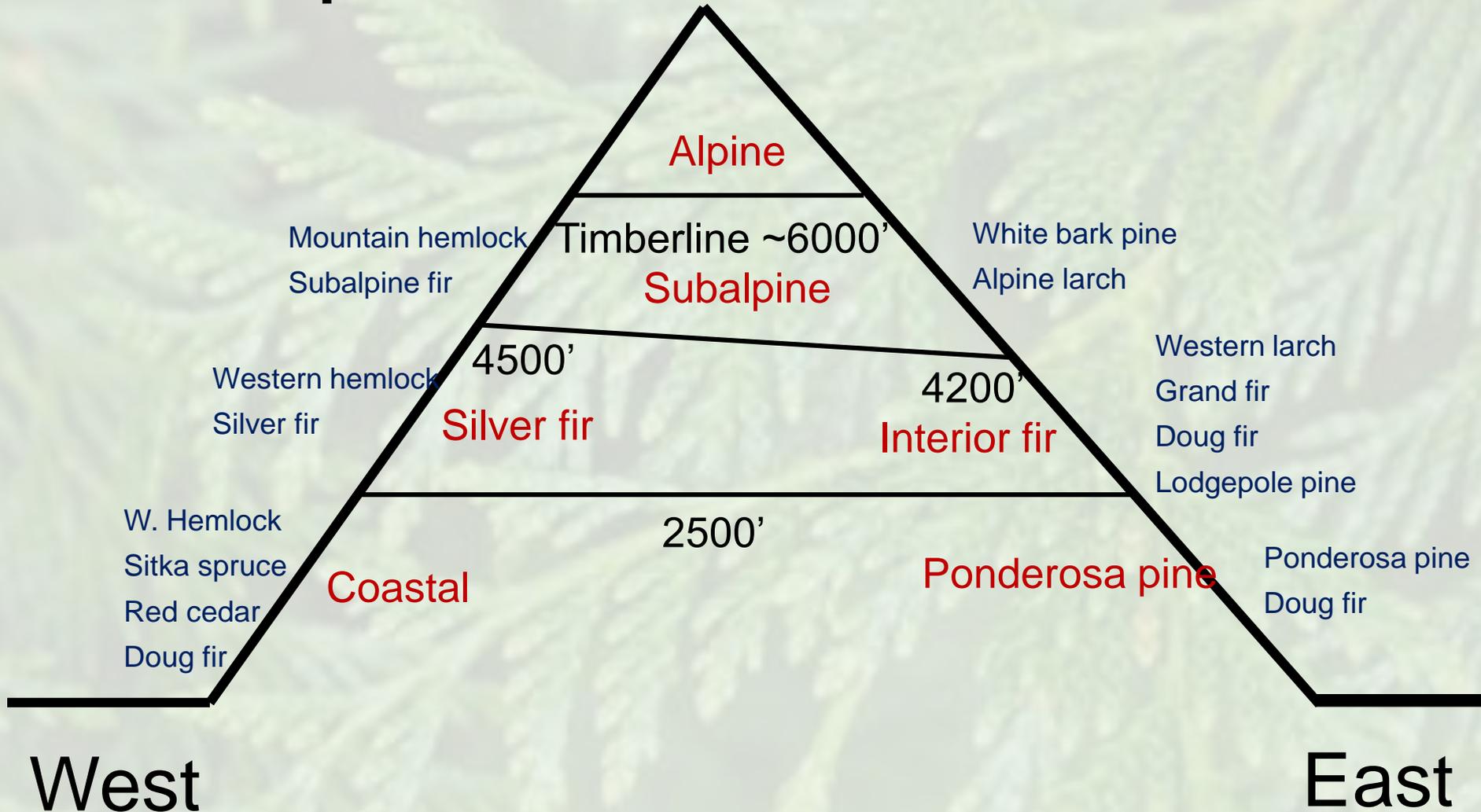
Q: How do trees get on the internet?

A: They log on.

# Identification

- Emphasis on location (including elevation), needles (simple key), and appearance
- Mnemonics
- Not much emphasis on bark or size of tree

# Location: zones and predominant trees



Key

Needles

Scales

Clustered

Not clustered

Pines (4)

Spruces (2)

Cedars (2)

Larches (2)

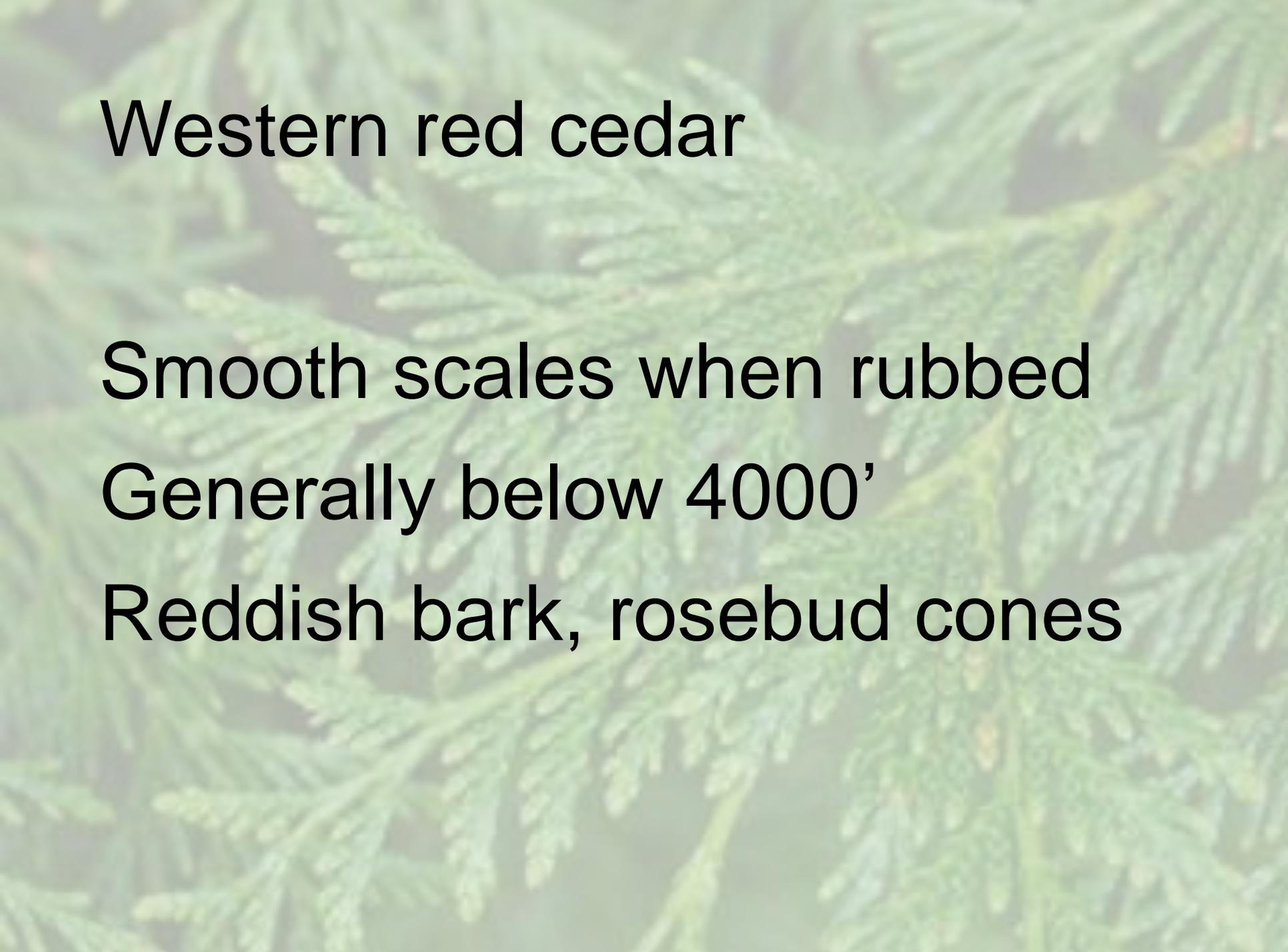
Hemlocks (2)

Firs (5)

Yew (1)

A close-up photograph of cedar branches, showing the characteristic scale-like structure of the leaves. The branches are green and densely packed with small, overlapping scales. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green.

# Scales: Cedars (2)

A close-up photograph of Western red cedar branches. The branches are covered in dense, green, needle-like foliage. A small, young cone is visible on the right side of the image. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green.

# Western red cedar

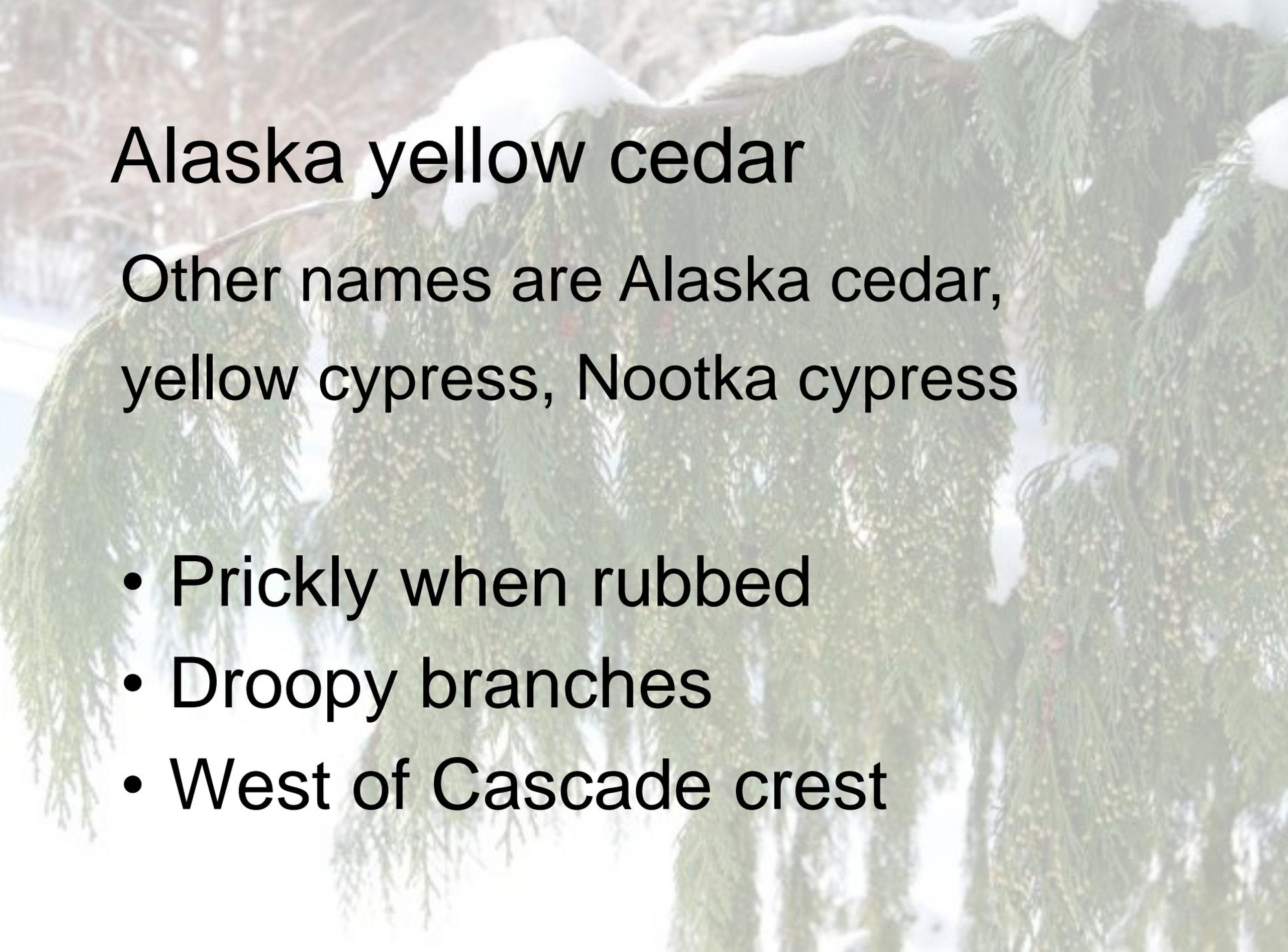
Smooth scales when rubbed

Generally below 4000'

Reddish bark, rosebud cones

Western red cedar





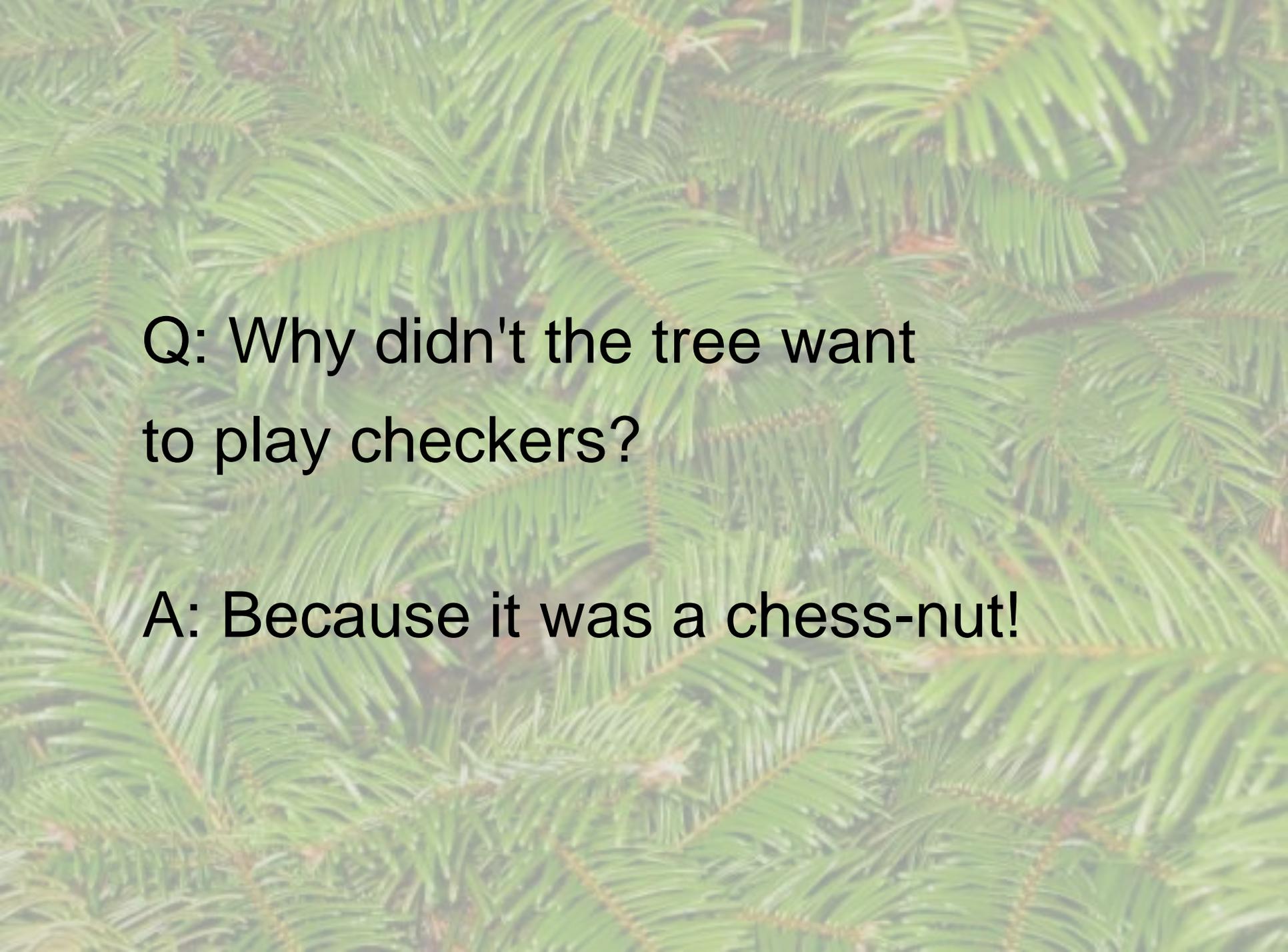
# Alaska yellow cedar

Other names are Alaska cedar,  
yellow cypress, Nootka cypress

- Prickly when rubbed
- Droopy branches
- West of Cascade crest



Alaska yellow cedar



Q: Why didn't the tree want  
to play checkers?

A: Because it was a chess-nut!

Key

Needles

Scales

Clustered

Not clustered

Pines (4)

Spruces (2)

Cedars (2)

Larches (2)

Hemlocks (2)

Firs (5)

Yew (1)

# Needles

Clustered

Pines (4)

Larches (2)

Not clustered

Spruces (2)

Hemlocks (2)

Firs (5)

Yew (1)



**Needles: Clustered**

**Pines (4)**

**Larches (2)**

# Lodgepole pine

Lightweight wood and easy to peel bark made it preferred for tepees and log cabins.

Costal form is known as shore pine

- 2 needles
- Needles are 1-3"

Lodgepole pine



# Ponderosa pine

Named by David Douglas for  
its ponderous size

- Three needles (occasionally 2)  
up to 10”
- East of crest only



Ponderosa pine

Ponderosa pine





# Western white pine

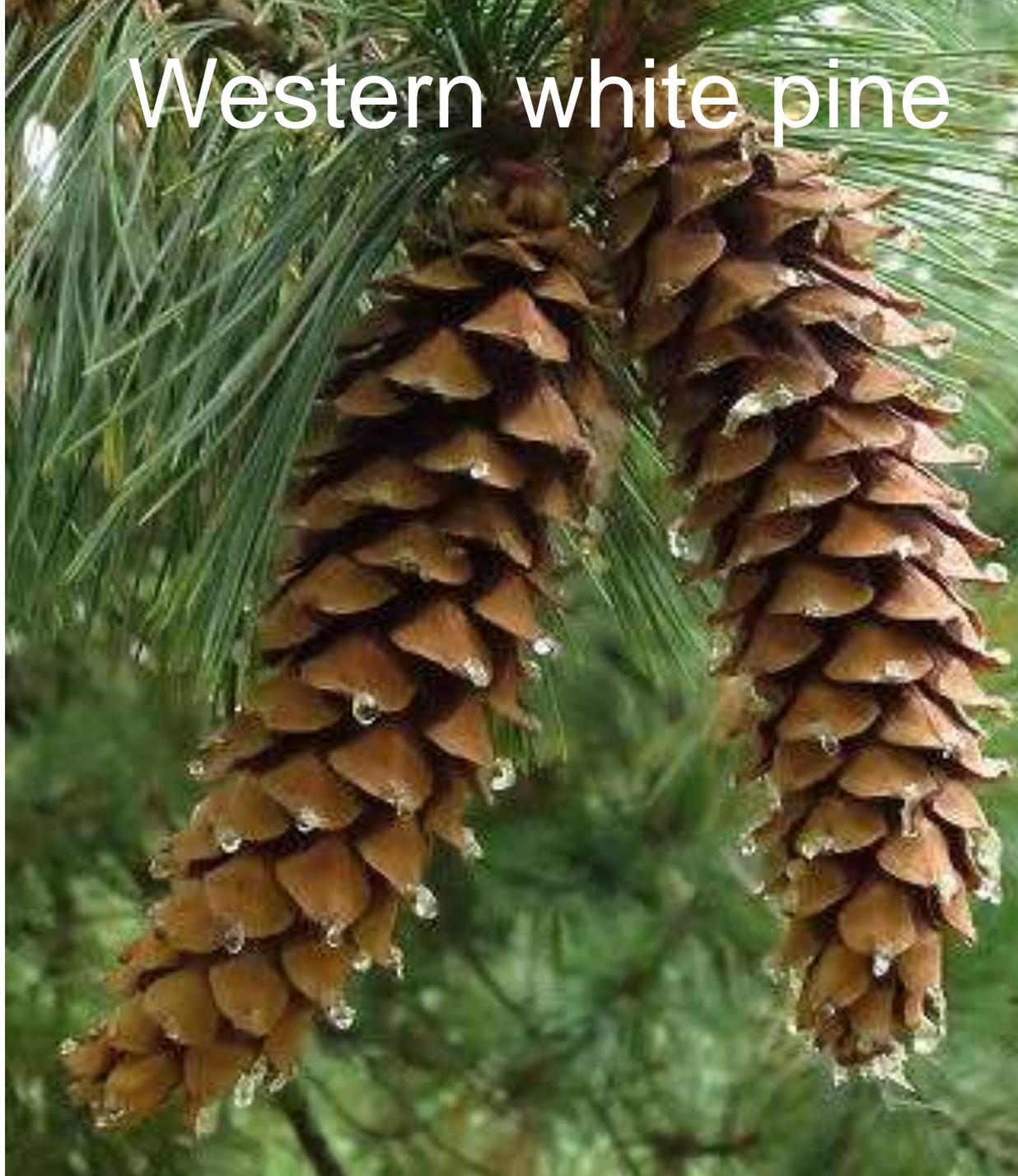
Largest cones in Washington

- 5 needles, cones 6-11”
- Lower elevations up to 5000’

Western white pine



# Western white pine



# Whitebark pine

Symbiotic relationship with Clark's nutcracker

- 5 needles, bundled
- Higher elevations, 5000'+
- Cones 2-3" but rarely seen

Whitebark pine



Whitebark pine



# Western larch

Yellow needles in fall

- Clustered needles  $>10$
- East only, below 5000' on north facing slopes

# Western larch



# Alpine larch

Yellow needles in fall

- Clustered needles > 10
- East only, above 5000'



Alpine larch

# Needles

Clustered

Pines (4)

Larches (2)

Not clustered

Spruces (2)

Hemlocks (2)

Firs (5)

Yew (1)

The background of the slide is a close-up photograph of evergreen tree branches. The branches are covered in dense, green, needle-like leaves. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the needles and the brownish bark of the branches. The overall tone is natural and green.

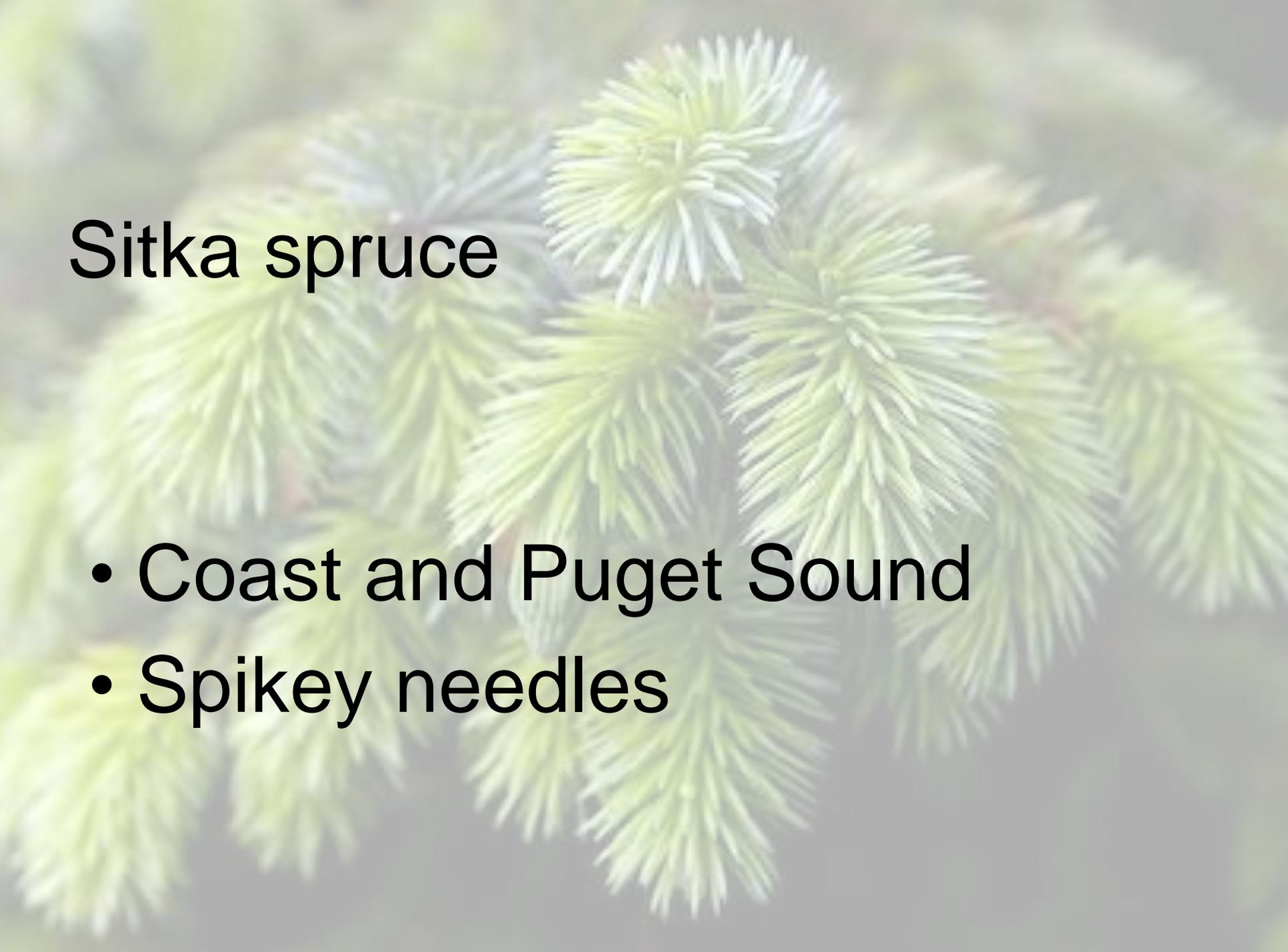
**Needles: Not Clustered**

**Spruces (2)**

**Hemlocks (2)**

**Firs (5)**

**Yew (1)**

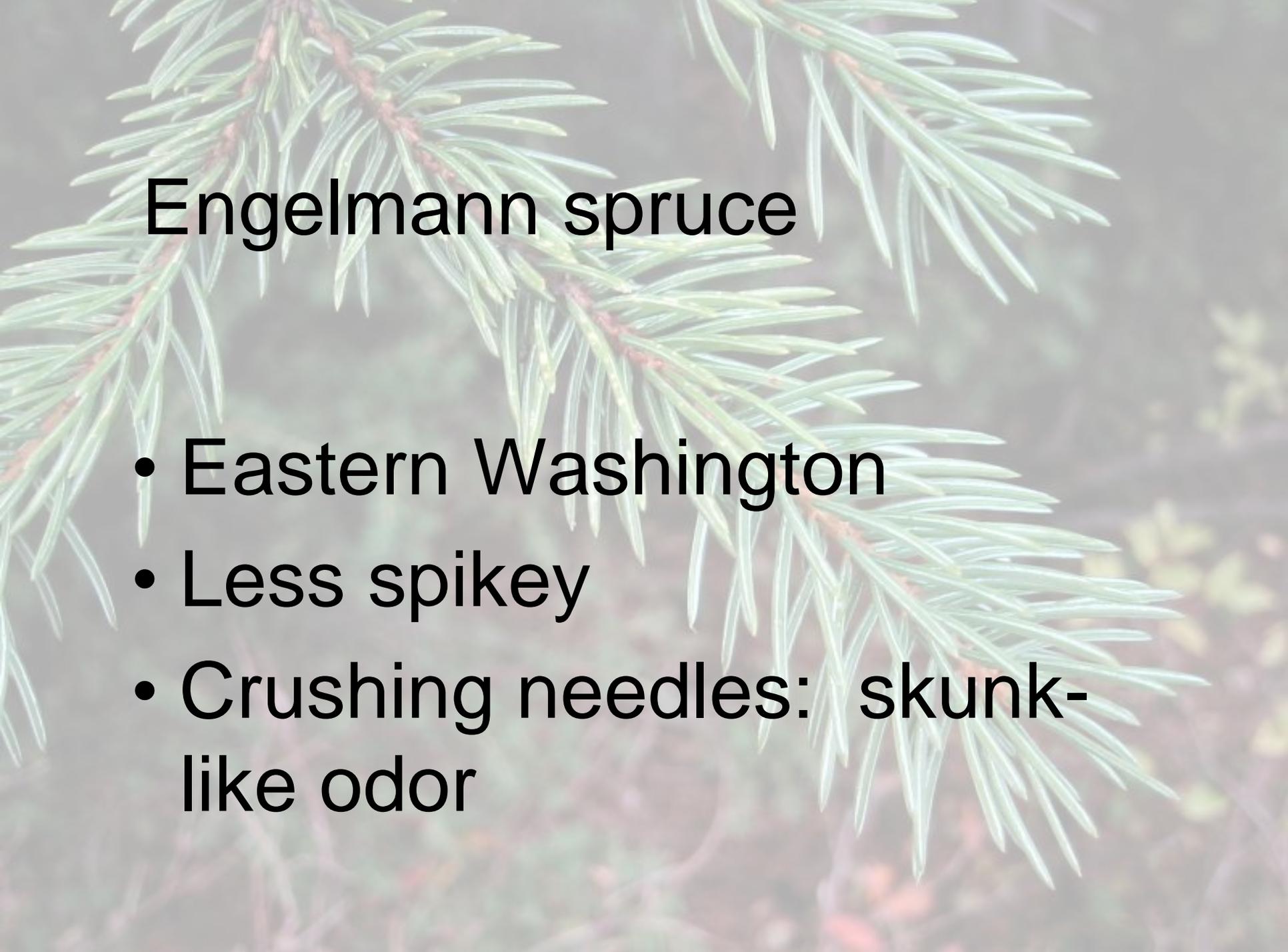
A close-up photograph of Sitka spruce needles, showing their characteristic sharp, needle-like structure and vibrant green color. The needles are arranged in dense, fan-like clusters on a dark brown branch. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey, making the green needles stand out prominently.

# Sitka spruce

- Coast and Puget Sound
- Spikey needles



Sitka spruce

A close-up photograph of Engelmann spruce needles, showing their characteristic blue-green color and fine texture. The needles are arranged in dense, linear clusters along a reddish-brown stem. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting a natural forest setting.

# Engelmann spruce

- Eastern Washington
- Less spikey
- Crushing needles: skunk-like odor



Engelmann spruce

# Western hemlock

Washington State tree

- Droopy crown
- Lower elevations
- Needles of 3 lengths

# Western hemlock



# Mountain hemlock

- Higher elevations
- Less droopy crown
- Needles of two lengths



Mountain hemlock

# Silver fir

- Side by side needles with one or two rows down spine
- Underside of needle is pale



Silver fir

Silver fir



# Grand fir

Flat branches used for bedding  
by Lewis and Clark

- Side by side needles, round tips
- Needles have grapefruit smell

Grand fir



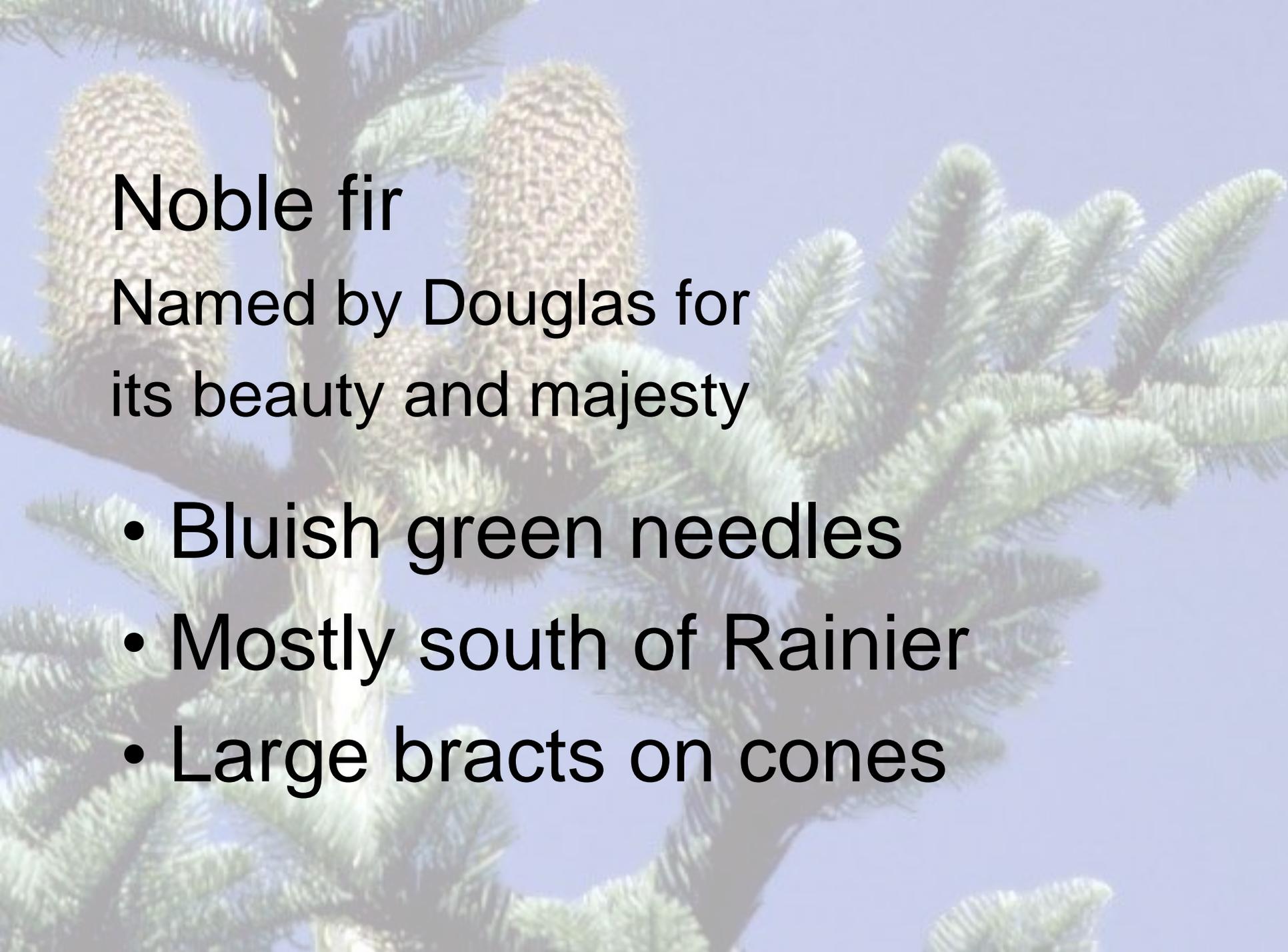
# Subalpine fir

- Just below tree line
- Steepled appearance

# Subalpine fir





A photograph of a Noble fir tree with several large, brown, cone-shaped cones. The tree has dense, bluish-green needles. The background is a clear blue sky.

# Noble fir

Named by Douglas for its beauty and majesty

- Bluish green needles
- Mostly south of Rainier
- Large bracts on cones



Noble fir

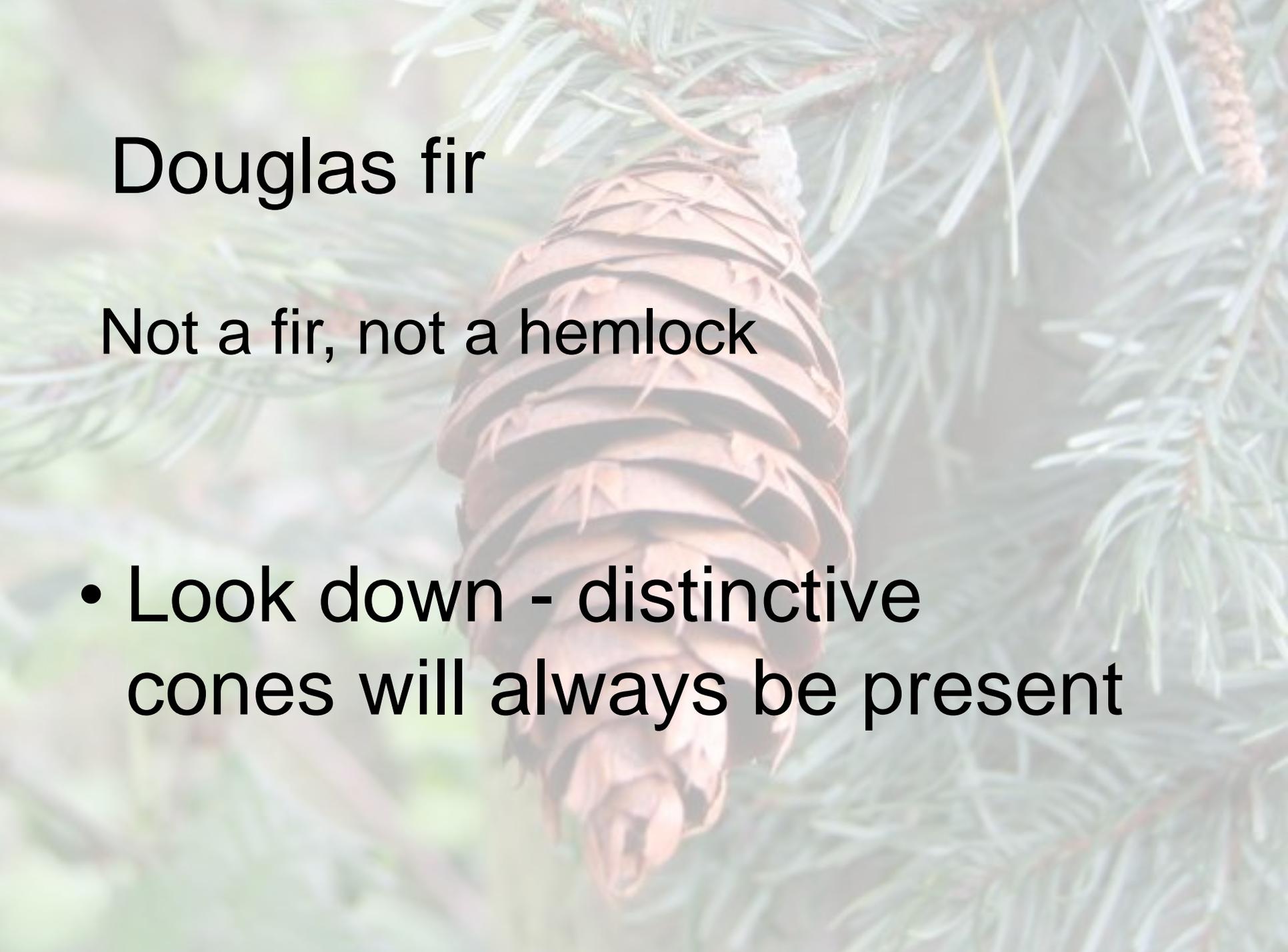
Noble fir



# Douglas fir

Not a fir, not a hemlock

- Look down - distinctive cones will always be present



Douglas fir



# Yew

Aril tastes like mild cherry Jello.  
Seed is bad.

- Bush
- Side by side needles:  
pointy



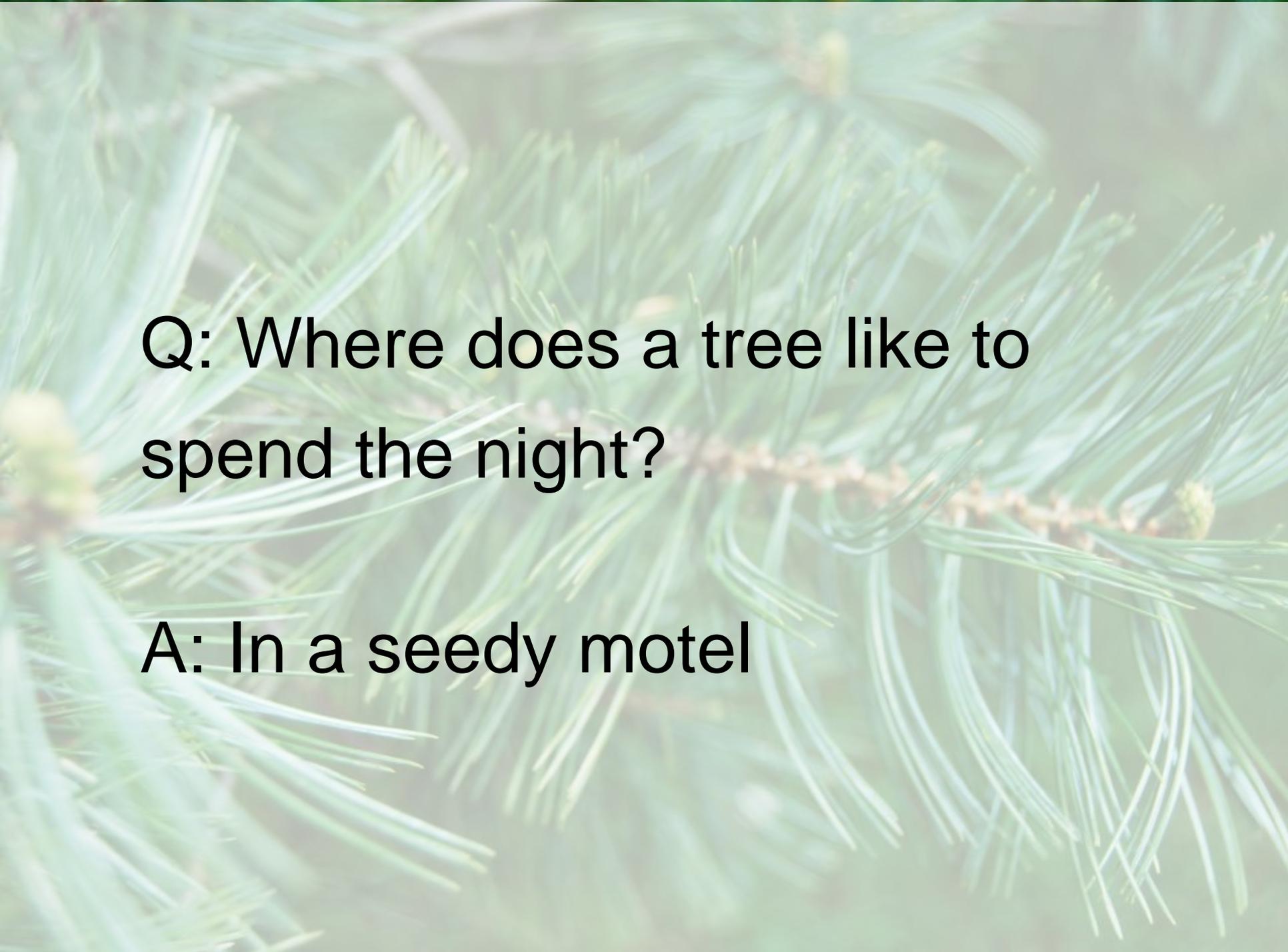
Yew



Yew

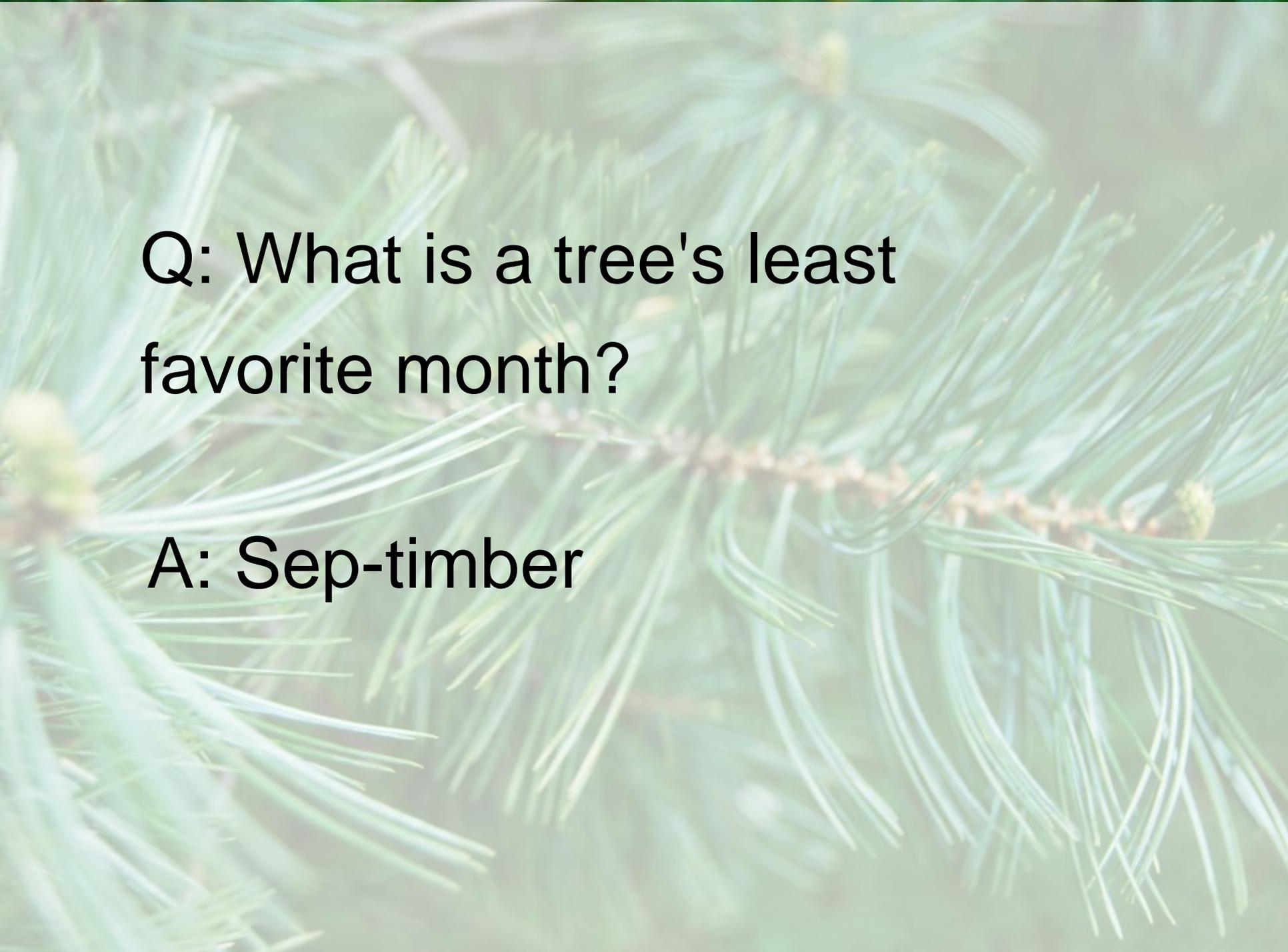
Yew





**Q: Where does a tree like to  
spend the night?**

**A: In a seedy motel**



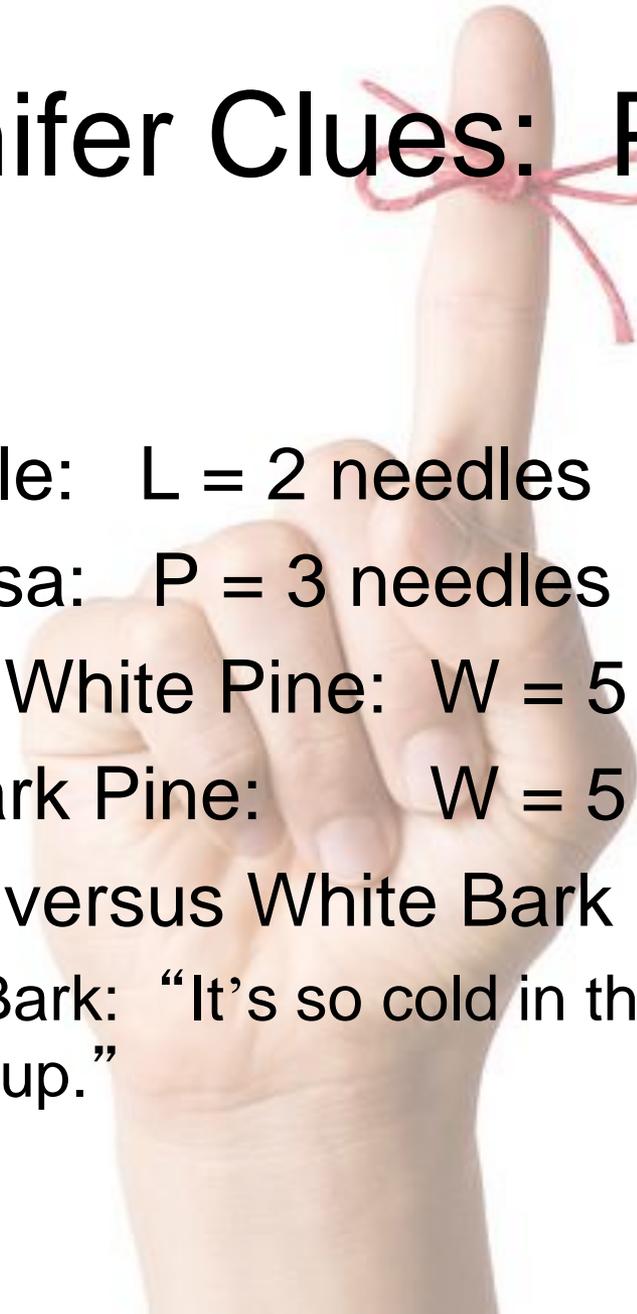
**Q: What is a tree's least favorite month?**

**A: Sep-timber**

# Mnemonics



# Conifer Clues: Pines



- Pines

- Lodgepole: L = 2 needles

- Ponderosa: P = 3 needles

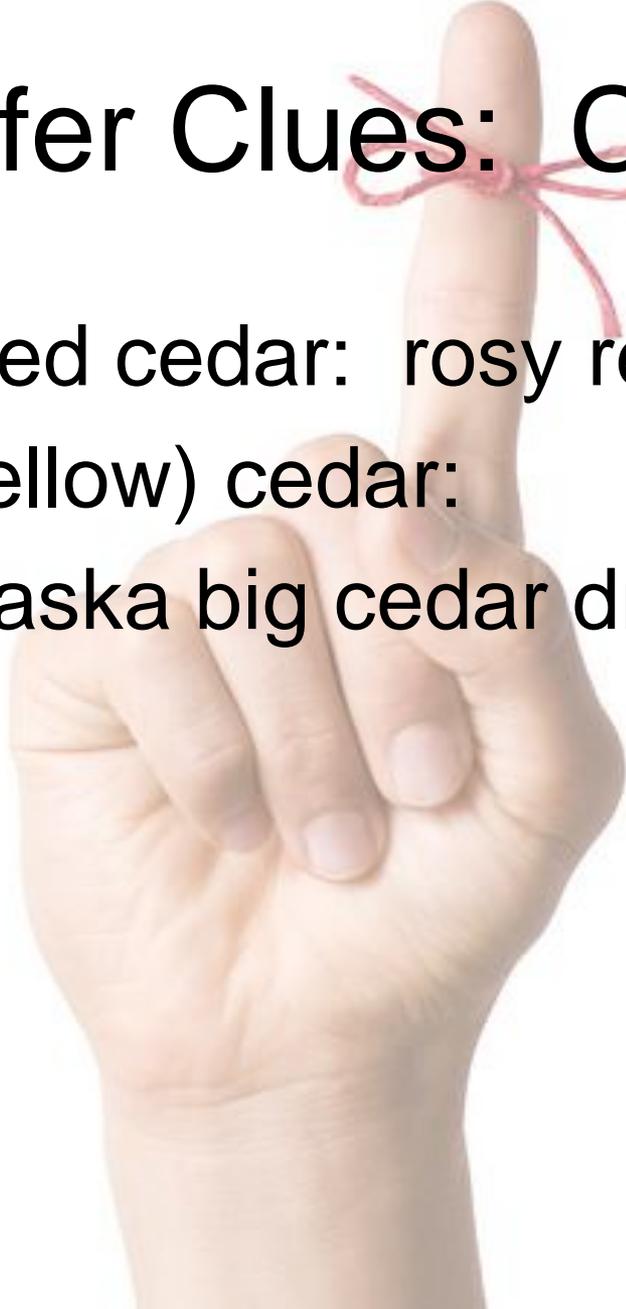
- Western White Pine: W = 5 needles

- White Bark Pine: W = 5 needles

- Western versus White Bark

- White Bark: “It’s so cold in the snow I have to bundle up.”

# Conifer Clues: Cedars

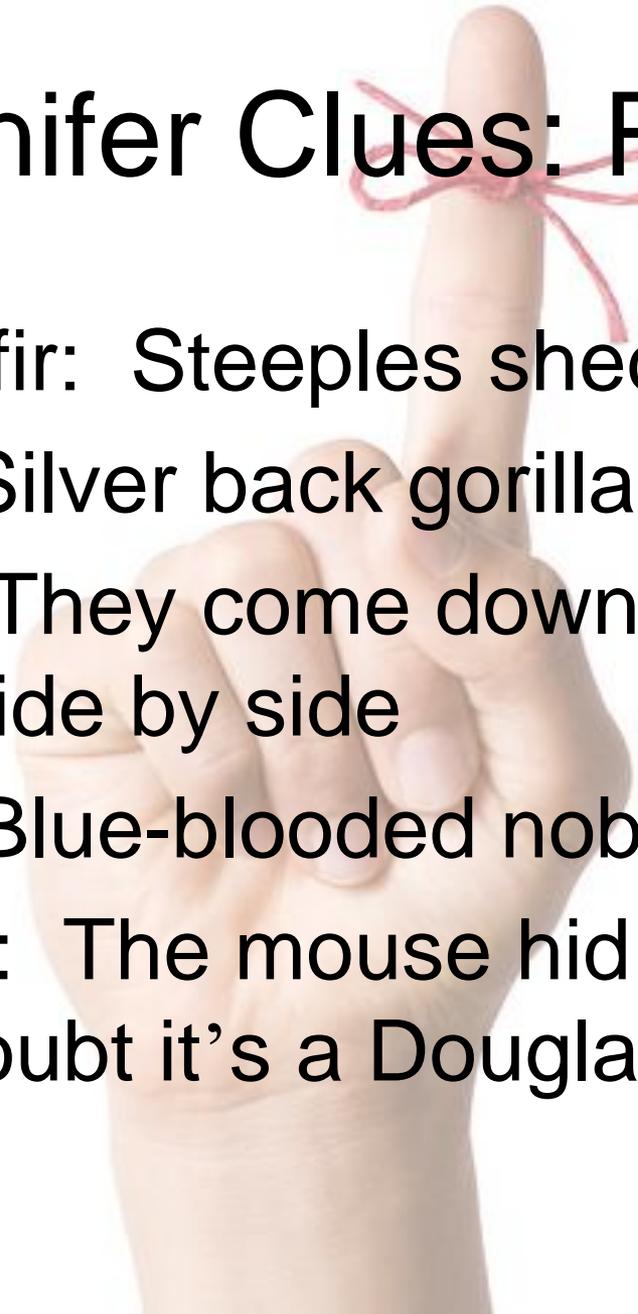
A hand is shown from the wrist up, with the index finger pointing upwards. A thin pink string is tied around the middle of the index finger, forming a small bow. The hand is positioned behind the text, with the index finger pointing towards the word 'Cedars' in the title.

- Western red cedar: rosy red
- Alaska (yellow) cedar:  
ABCD (Alaska big cedar droops)

# Conifer Clues: Larch, Hemlock, Yew, Spruce

- Western larch: Larch loses its leaves
- Alpine larch: East and high am I
- Western hemlock: The heavy hemlock hangs its head
- Mountain hemlock: I mountain better posture
- Sitka spruce: Spiky spruce
- Engelmann spruce: Eastern Engelmann
- Yew: You better not eat the seed

# Conifer Clues: Firs



- Subalpine fir: Steeples shed snow
- Silver fir: Silver back gorilla
- Grand fir: They come down the grand staircase side by side
- Noble fir: Blue-blooded nobility
- Douglas fir: The mouse hid from Doug.  
When in doubt it's a Douglas fir

# Quiz Time



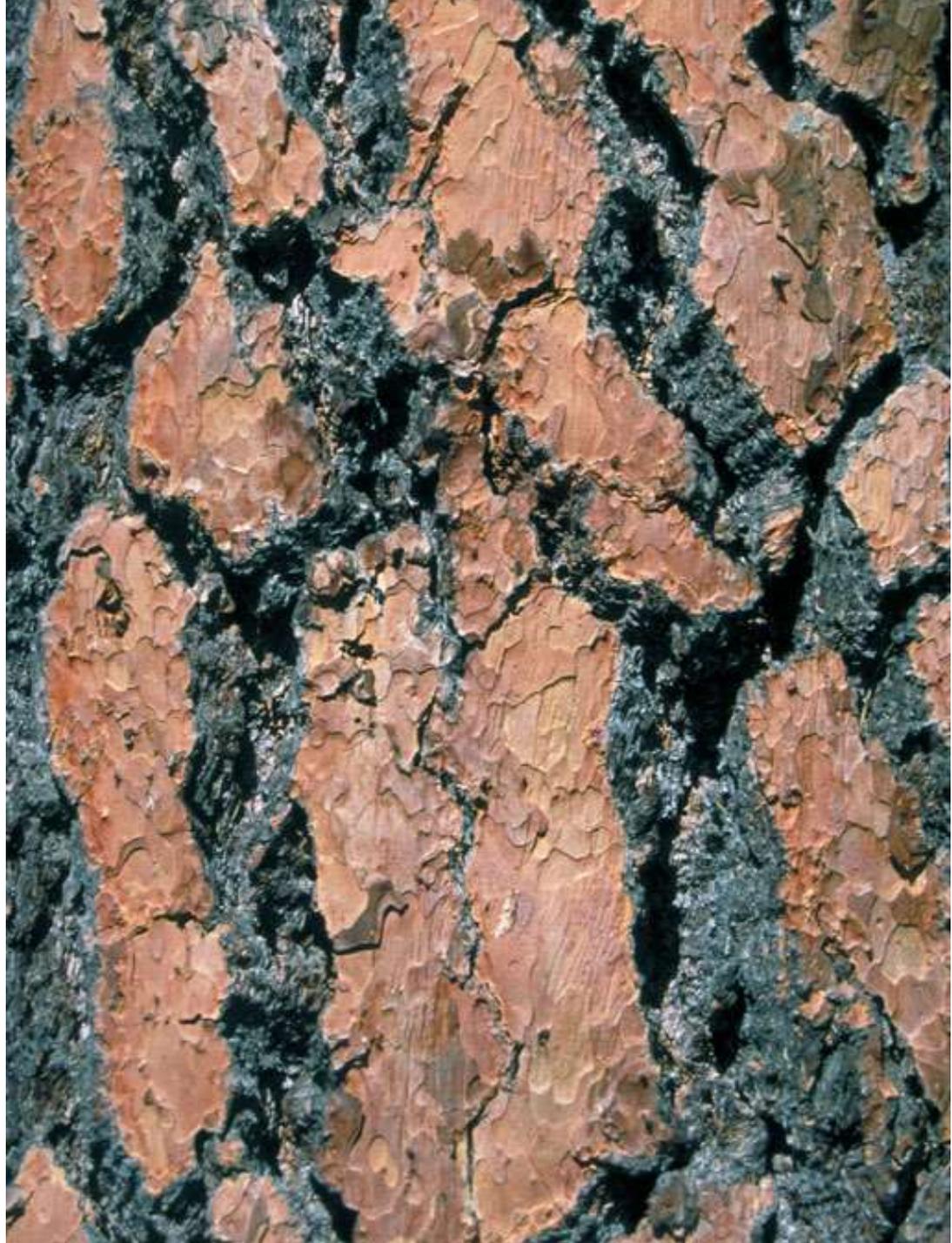








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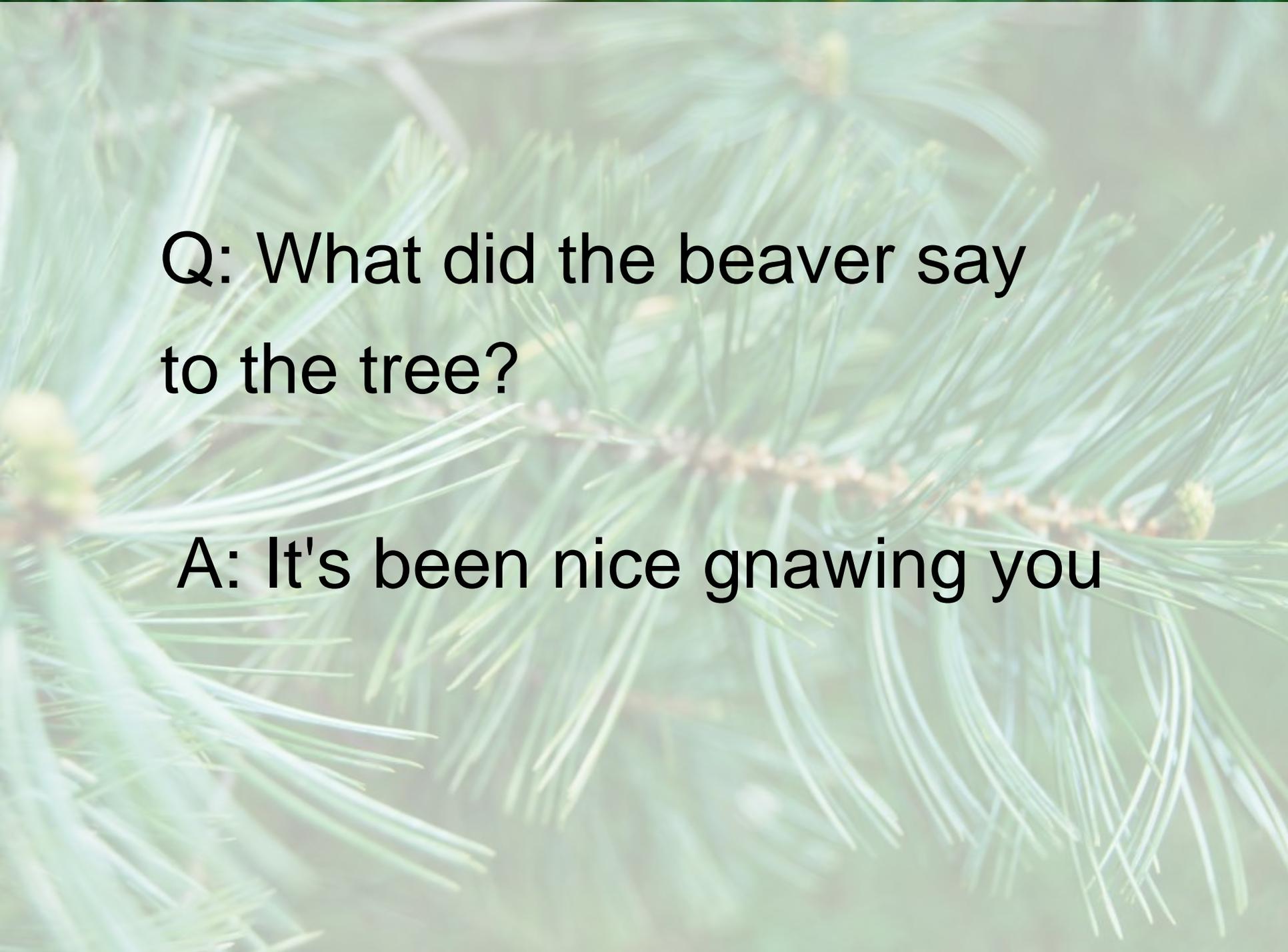












**Q: What did the beaver say  
to the tree?**

**A: It's been nice gnawing you**



**Time fir me to leaf yew**

