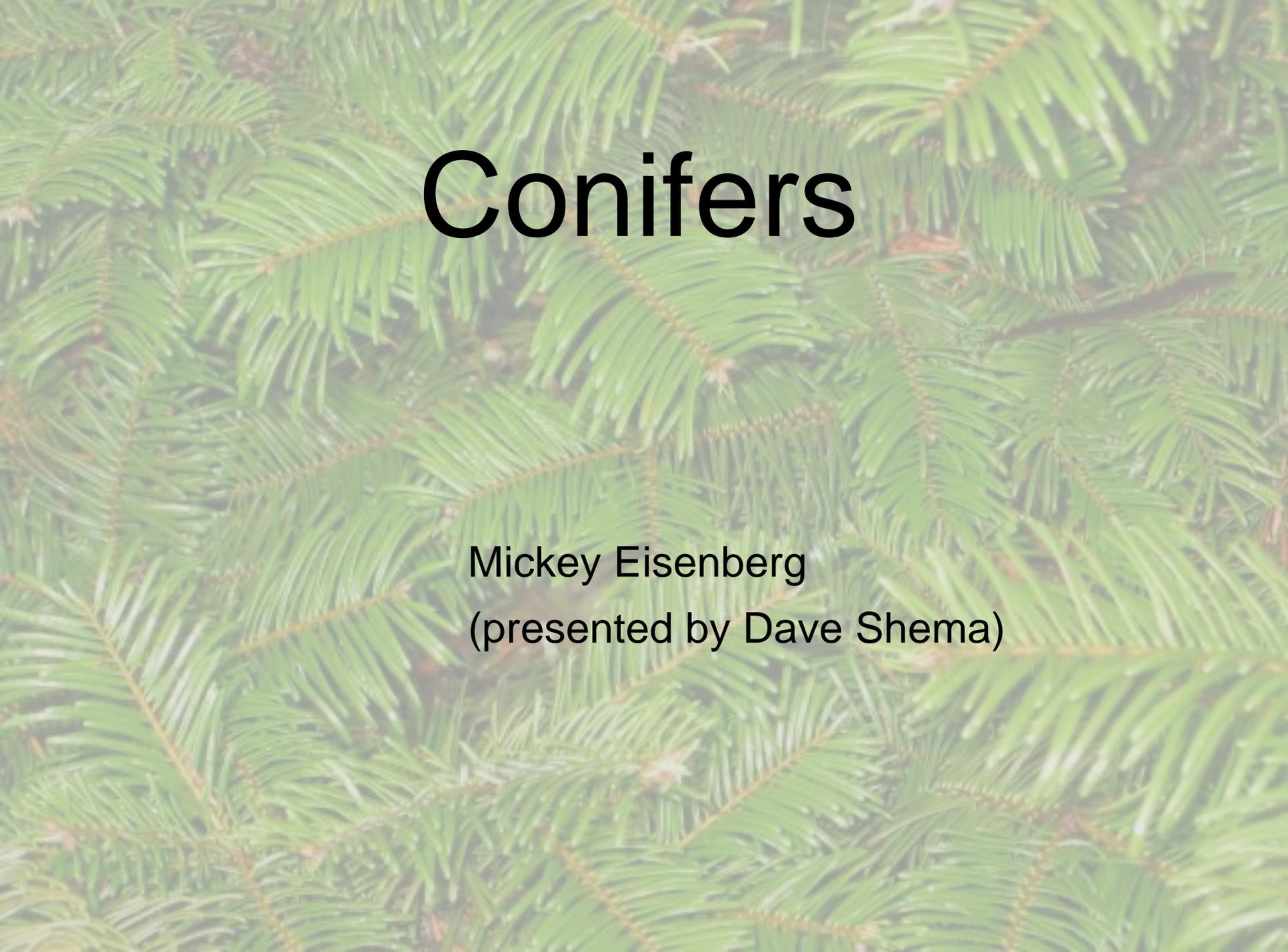


Of all the wonders of nature, a tree in summer is perhaps the most remarkable; with the possible exception of a moose singing "Embraceable You" in spats.

Woody Allen

The background of the slide is a close-up, slightly blurred photograph of green conifer needles. The needles are arranged in dense, overlapping clusters, creating a textured, layered appearance. 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!

# Cascade Conifers

## FOR DUMMIES<sup>®</sup>

4th Edition

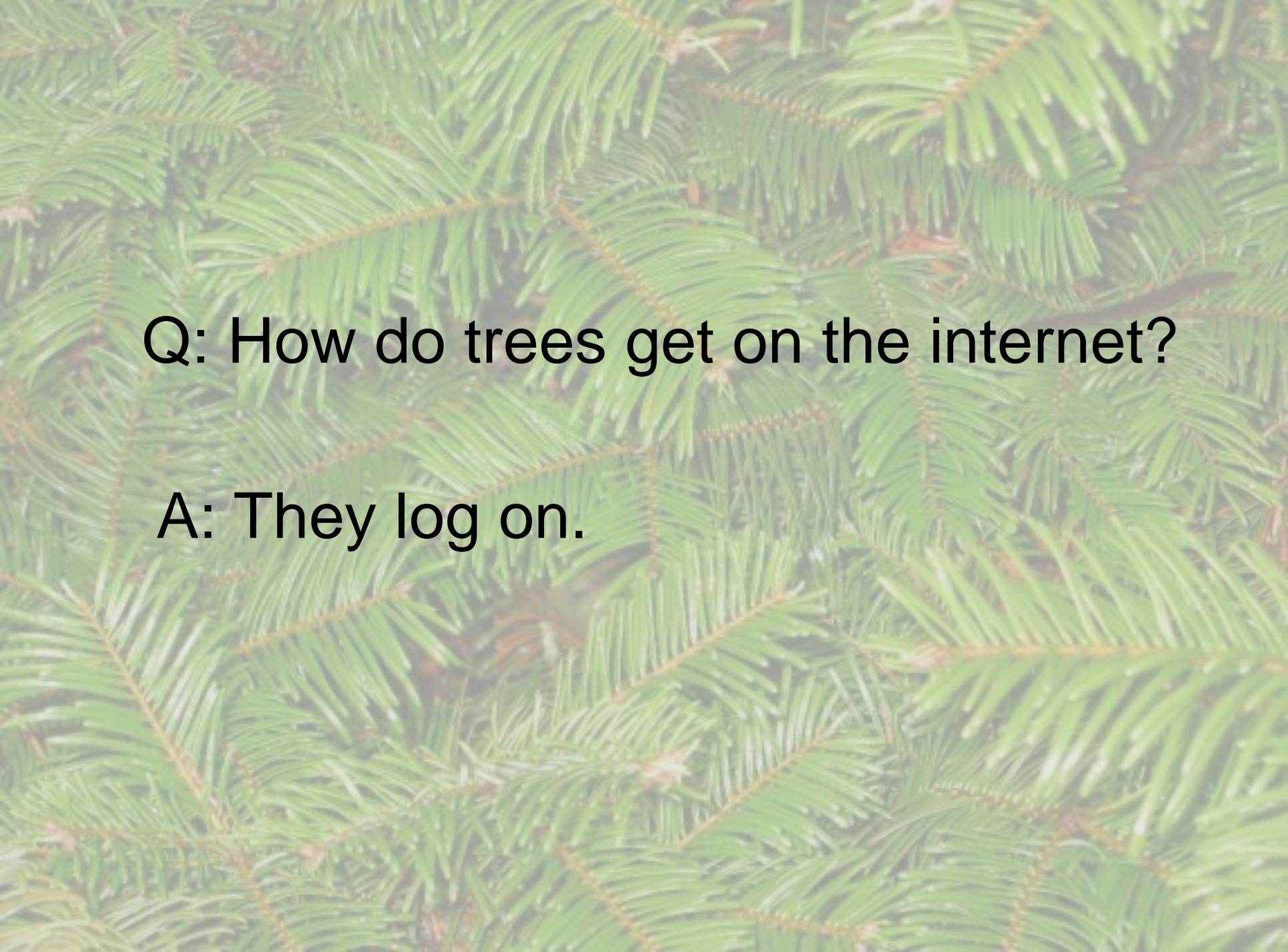
The latest on how  
to save more, invest  
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**Paul Bunyan**





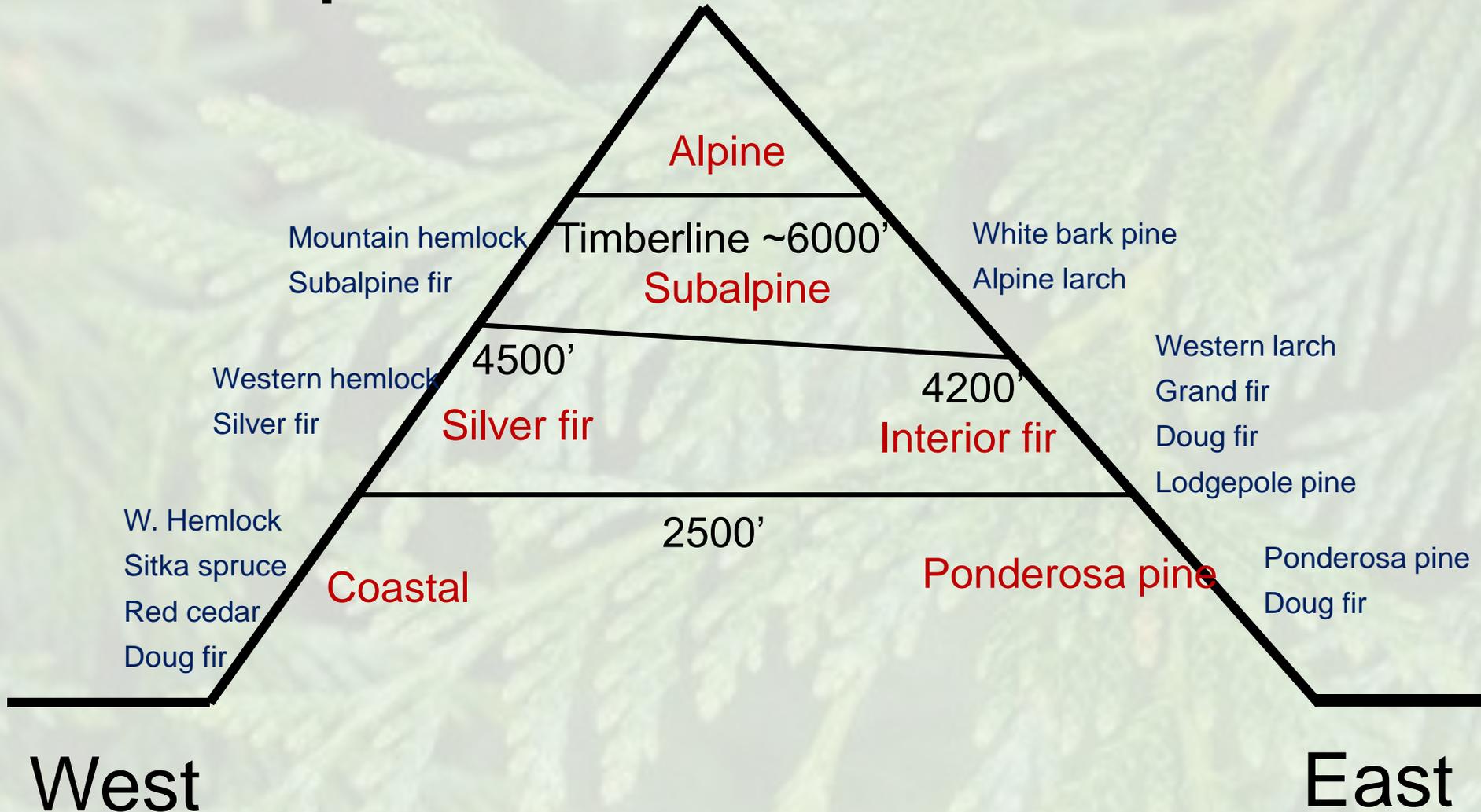
Q: How do trees get on the internet?

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 a vibrant green color and are densely packed with small, overlapping scales. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, creating a natural and serene atmosphere.

# Scales: Cedars (2)

# Western red cedar

Smooth scales when rubbed

Generally below 4000'

Reddish bark, rosebud cones

Looks “happy”, with uplifting branches

Western red cedar



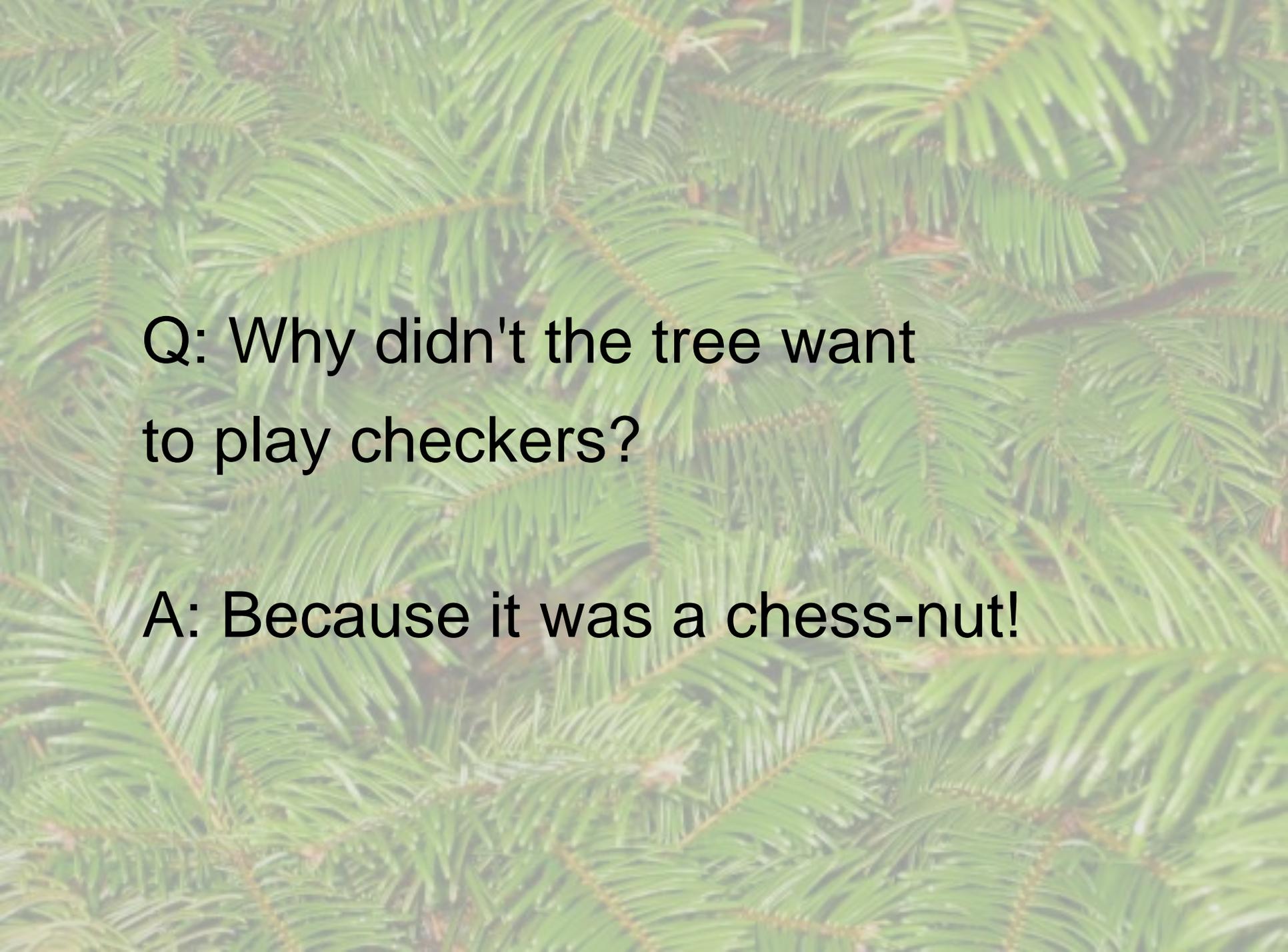
# **Alaska yellow cedar**

Other names are Alaska cedar,  
yellow cypress, Nootka cypress

- Prickly when rubbed
- Droopy branches
- Looks sad and low energy
- 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 relative is known as Shore pine or Contorta (Twisted) 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

inches long  
at the tip only

Needle arrangement can look like jigsaw puzzle

Needle arrangement may smell like vanilla or

butter scotch



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 5500' on north facing slopes
- Grows tall and straight

# Western larch



# Alpine larch

Yellow needles in fall

- Clustered needles > 10
- East only, above 5500'
- Grows where it is too cold, rocky, snowy, windy, for other conifers
- Woolly hairs cover buds and new twigs



**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. Several small, light-colored cones are visible, particularly on the left side of the frame. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the needles and the structure of the branches.

**Needles: Not Clustered**

**Spruces (2)**

**Hemlocks (2)**

**Firs (5)**

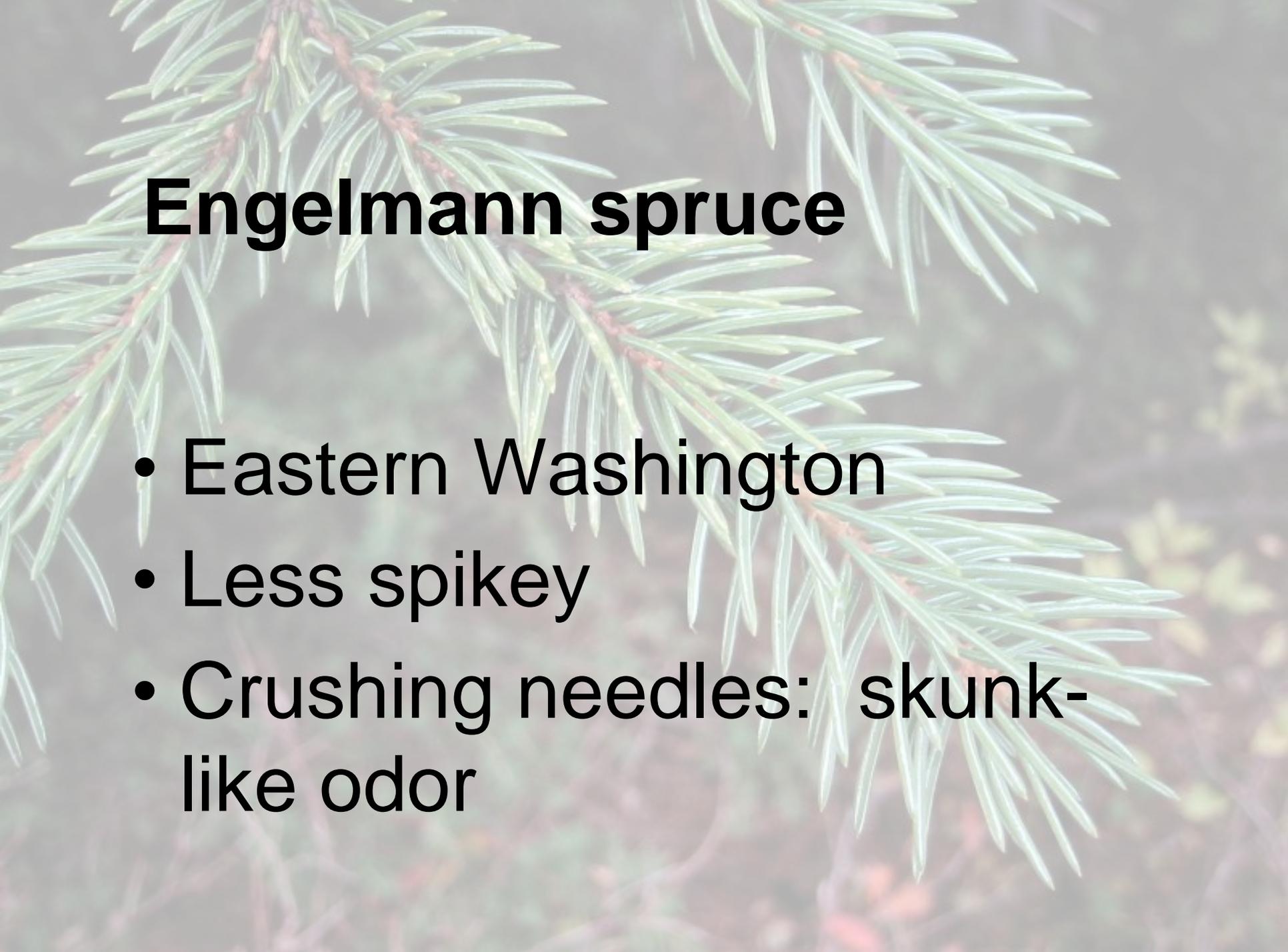
**Yew (1)**

# **Sitka spruce**

- Coast and Puget Sound lowlands within reach of ocean fog.
- Spikey needles



Sitka spruce

A close-up photograph of Engelmann spruce branches with dense, green, needle-like foliage. The branches are dark brown and have a slightly textured appearance. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green and brown, 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, mostly flat

# Western hemlock



# Mountain hemlock

- Higher elevations
- Less droopy crown
- Needles of two lengths
- Needles radiate from all sides of twig. “Sparkle Hemlock”

A close-up photograph of a Mountain hemlock branch. The branch is densely covered with small, bright green, needle-like leaves. The needles are arranged in a regular, overlapping pattern along the woody stem. The background is dark and out of focus, showing more of the tree's canopy. The text "Mountain hemlock" is overlaid in white at the bottom left of the image.

Mountain hemlock

# Silver fir

- Side by side needles with one or two rows down spine (ski jumpers)
- 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 and taste
- Top of twig is bare

Grand fir



# Subalpine fir

- Just below tree line
- Steepled appearance
- Needles curve to densely crowd top of twig

# Subalpine fir





# **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**

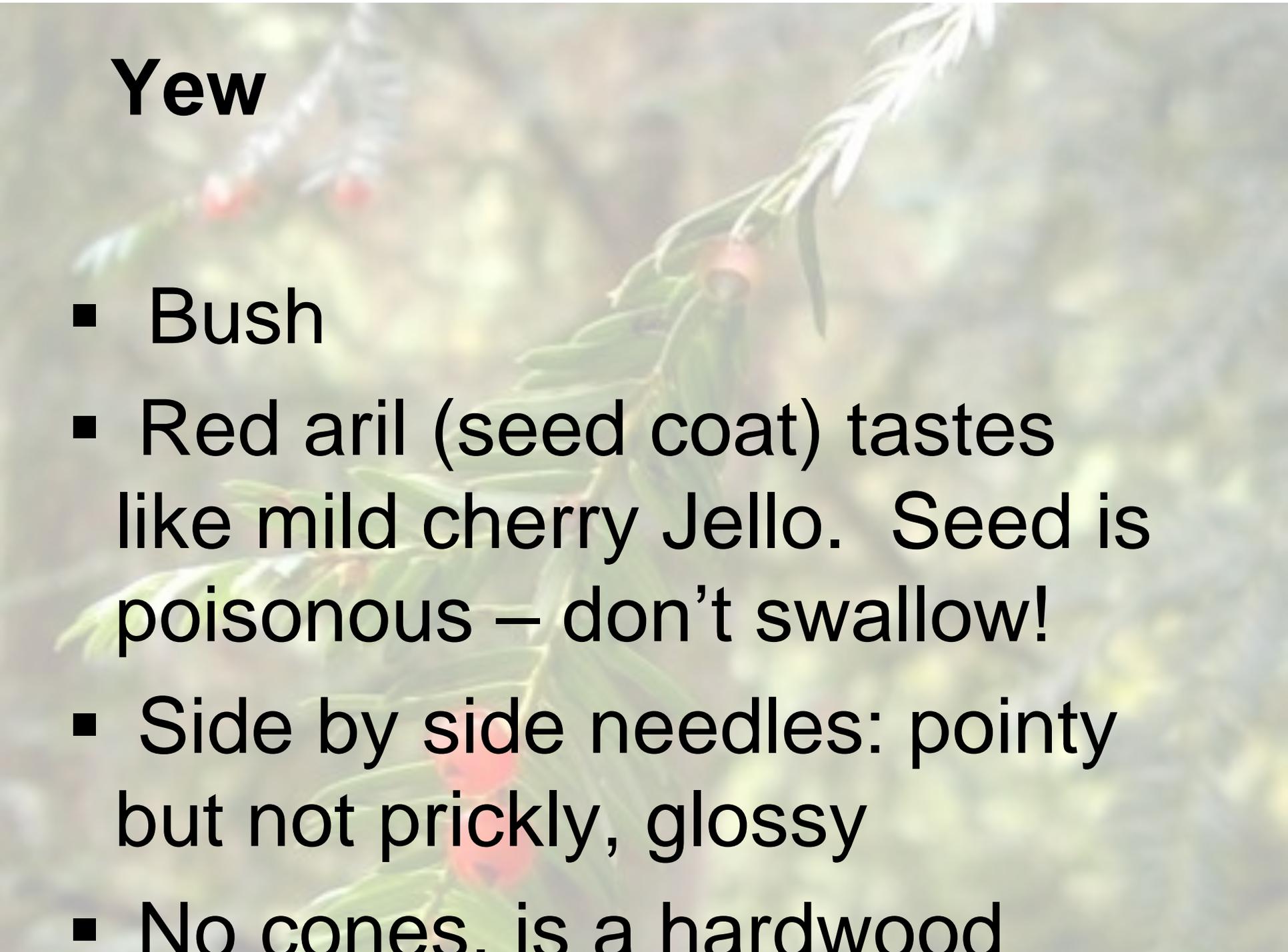
**Not a fir, not a hemlock**

- **Look down - distinctive cones will always be present**
- **Mouse tail bracts**

Douglas fir



# Yew



- Bush
- Red aril (seed coat) tastes like mild cherry Jello. Seed is poisonous – don't swallow!
- Side by side needles: pointy but not prickly, glossy
- No cones. is a hardwood



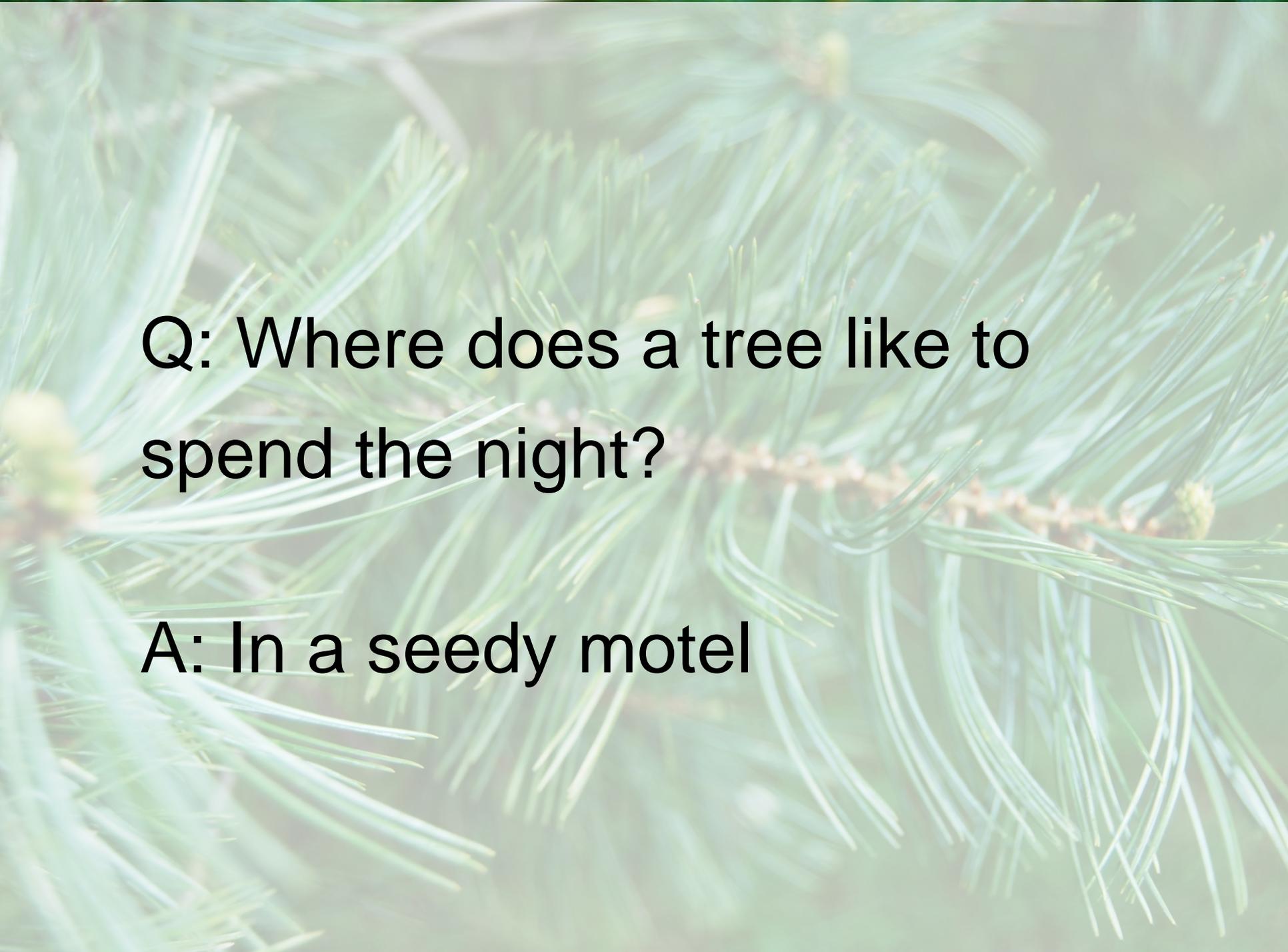
Yew



Yew

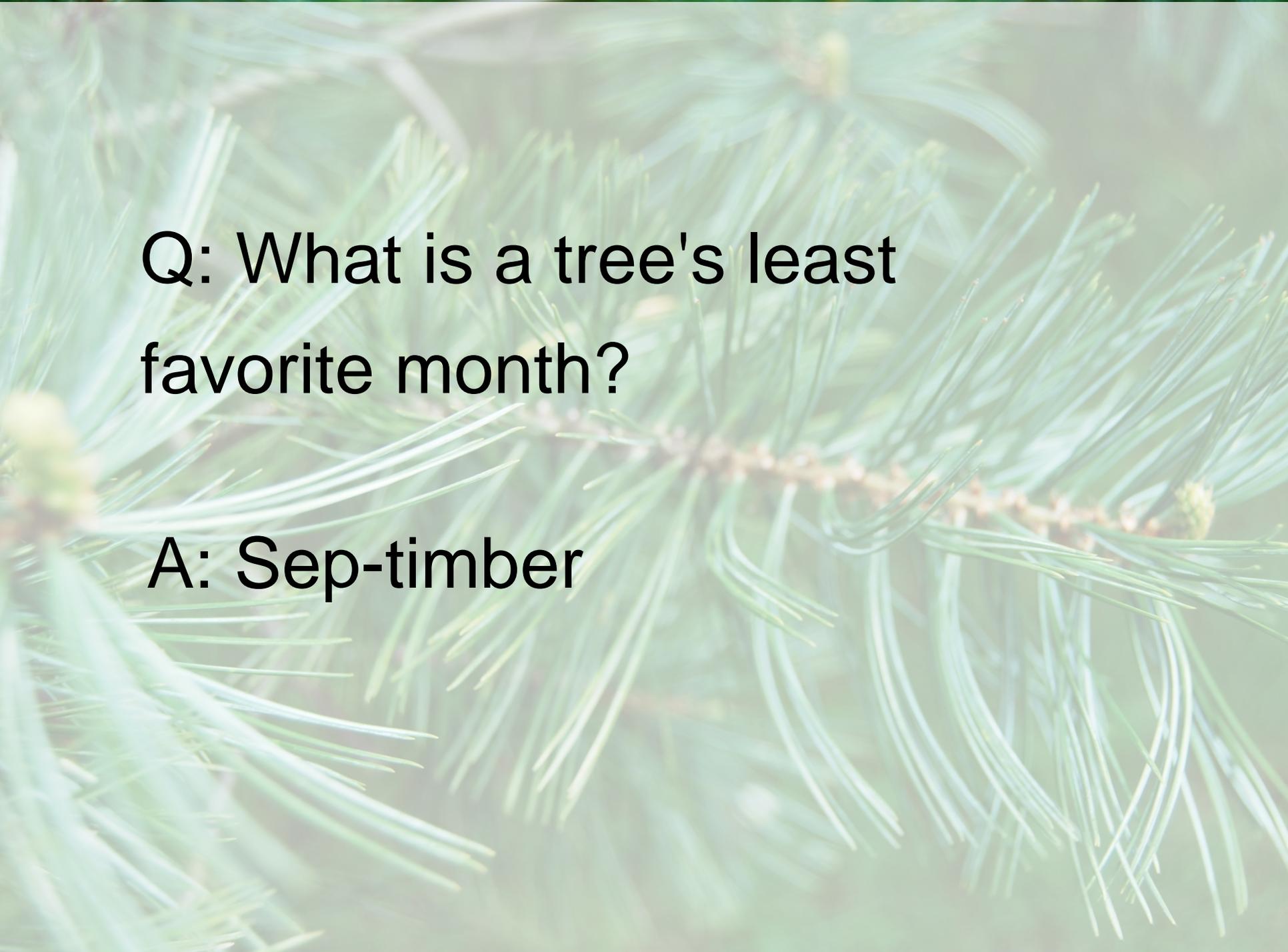
Yew





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

**A: In a seedy motel**



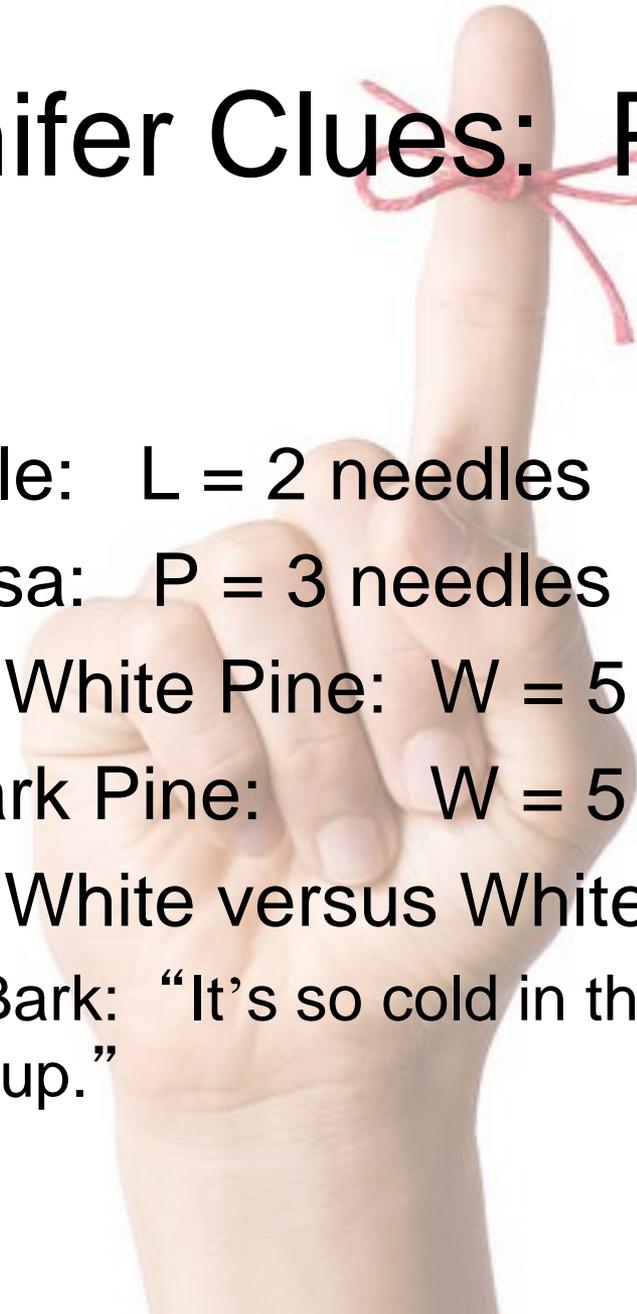
**Q: What is a tree's least favorite month?**

**A: Sep-timber**

# Mnemonics



# Conifer Clues: Pines



- Pines

- Lodgepole: L = 2 needles

- Ponderosa: P = 3 needles

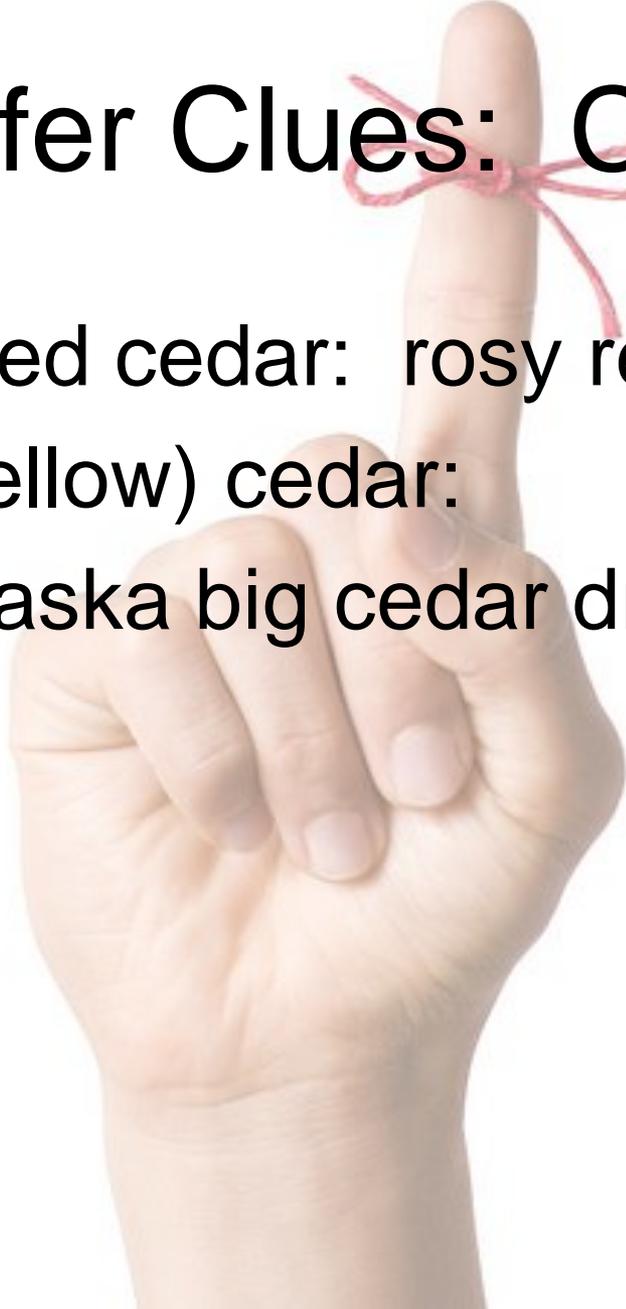
- Western White Pine: W = 5 needles

- White Bark Pine: W = 5 needles

- Western White versus White Bark

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

# Conifer Clues: Cedars

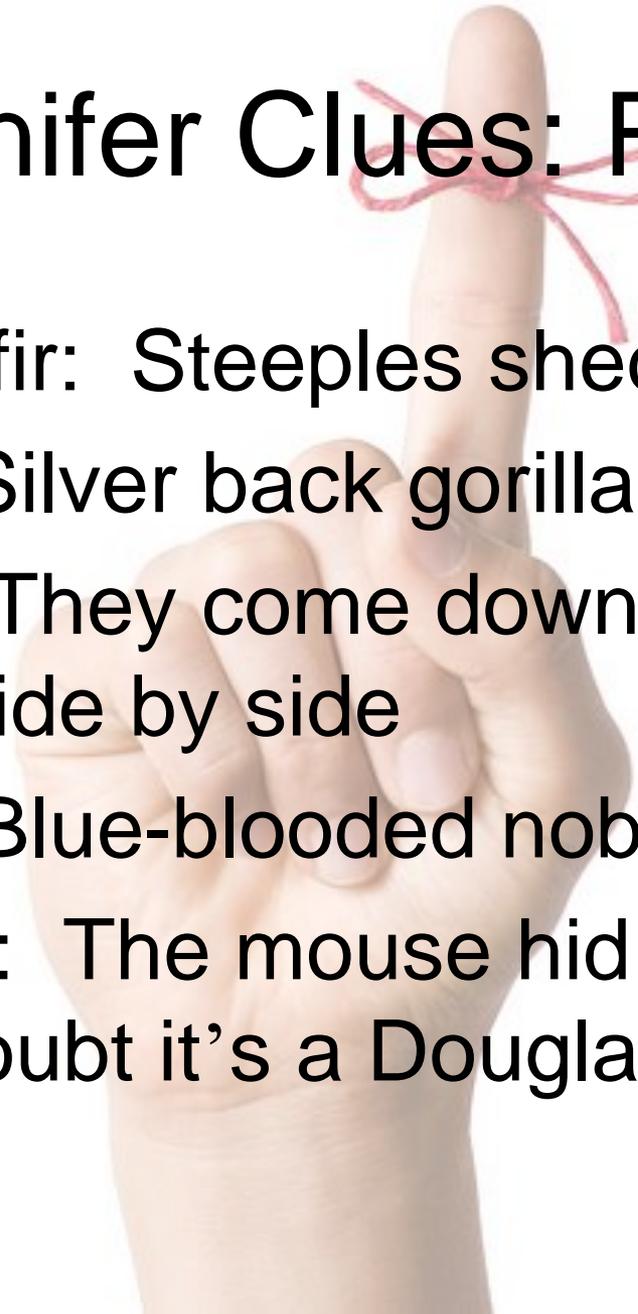
A hand is shown from the wrist up, with the index finger pointing upwards. A thin pink string is tied around the middle of the index finger, forming a small bow. The hand is positioned behind the text, with the index finger pointing towards the word 'Cedars' in the title.

- 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

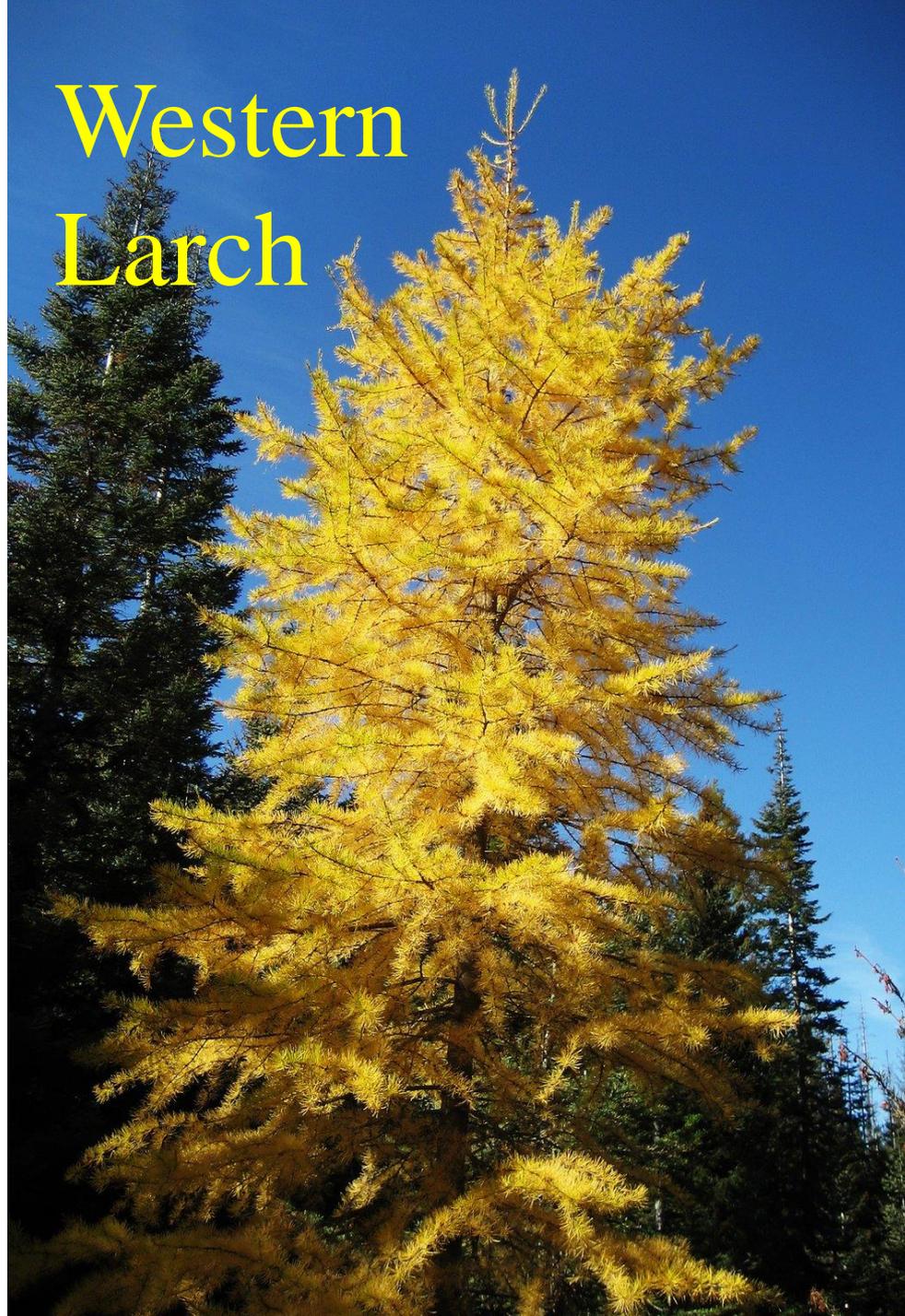
# Quiz Time



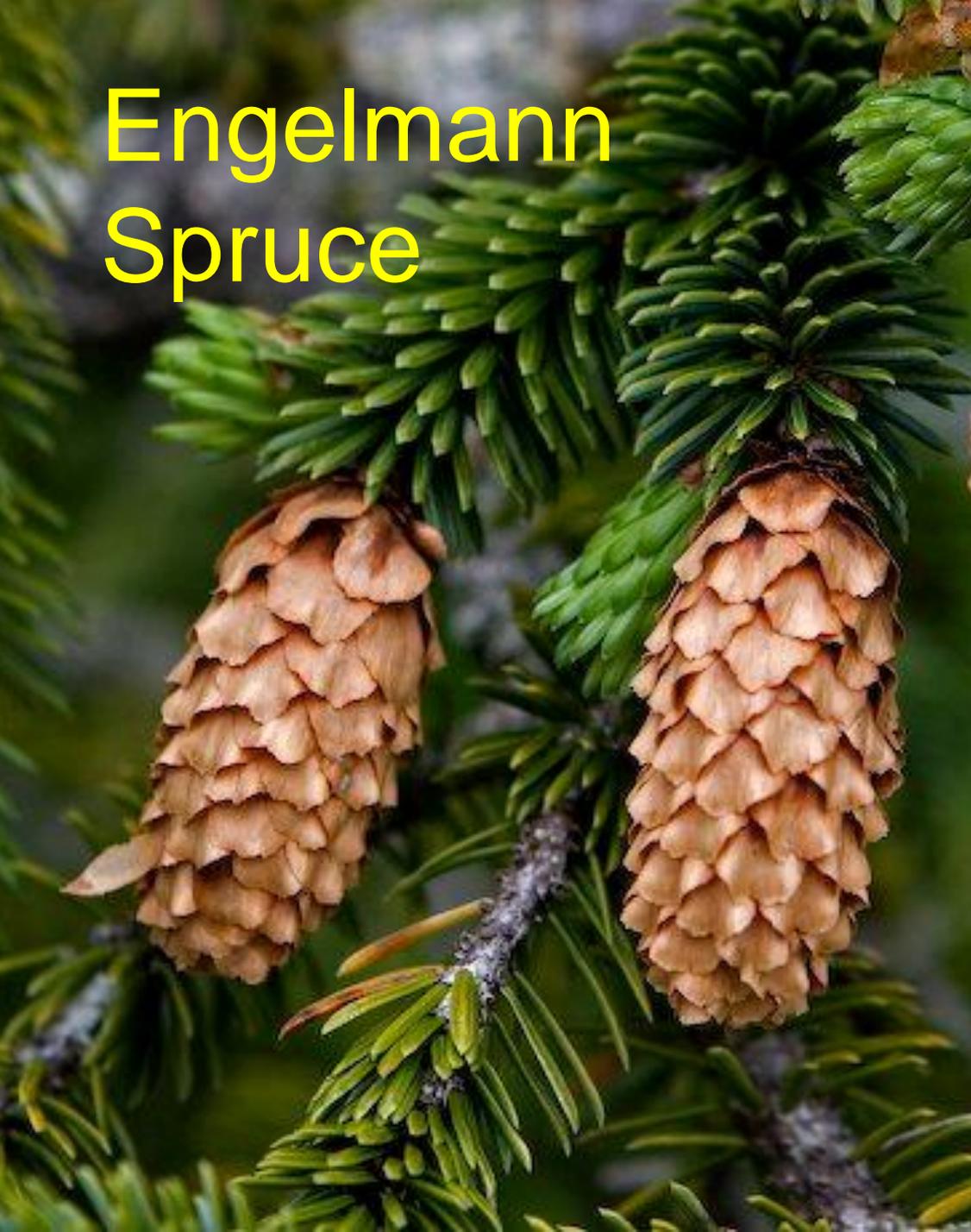


Ponderosa  
Pine

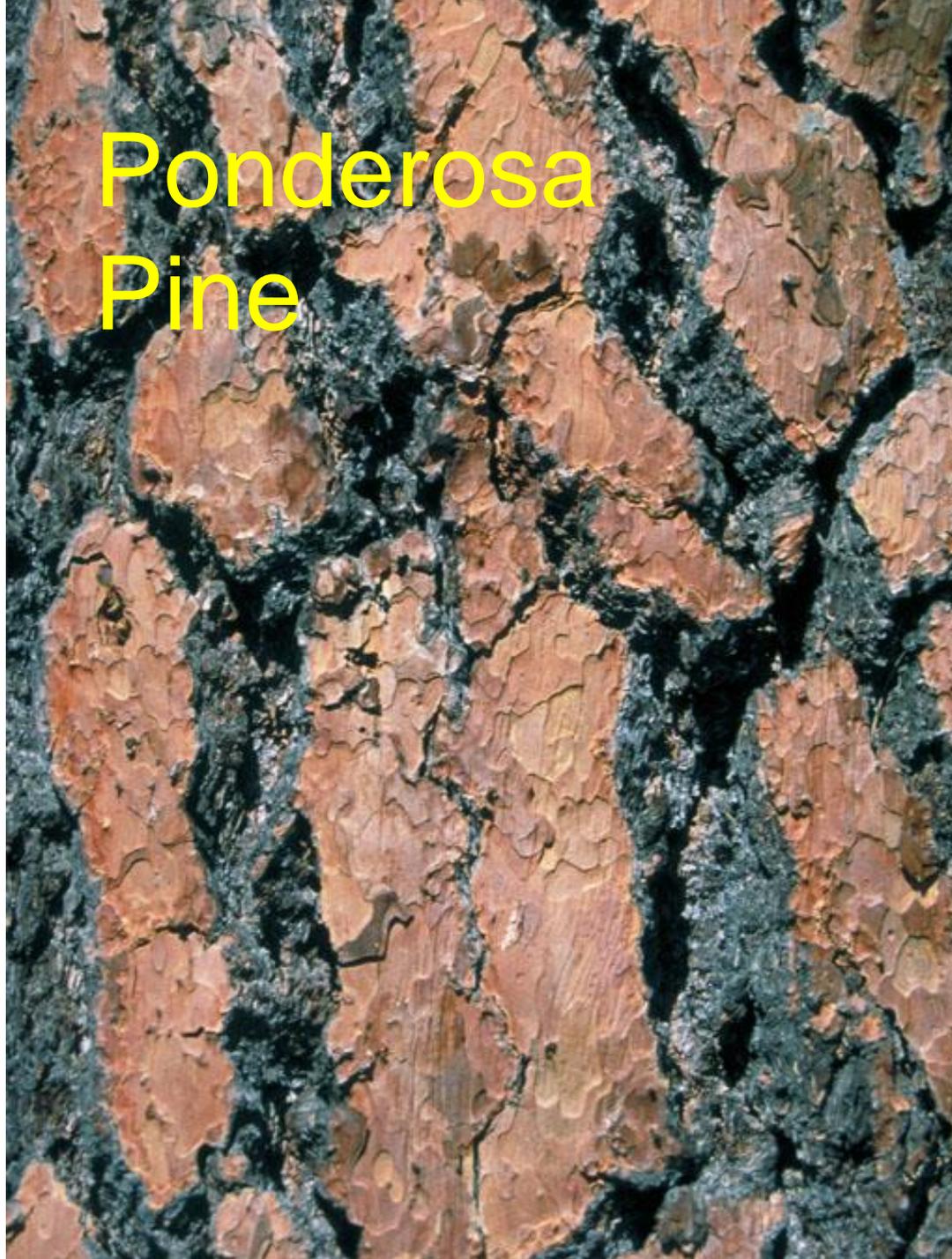
# Western Larch



# Engelmann Spruce



# Ponderosa Pine



# White Bark Pine

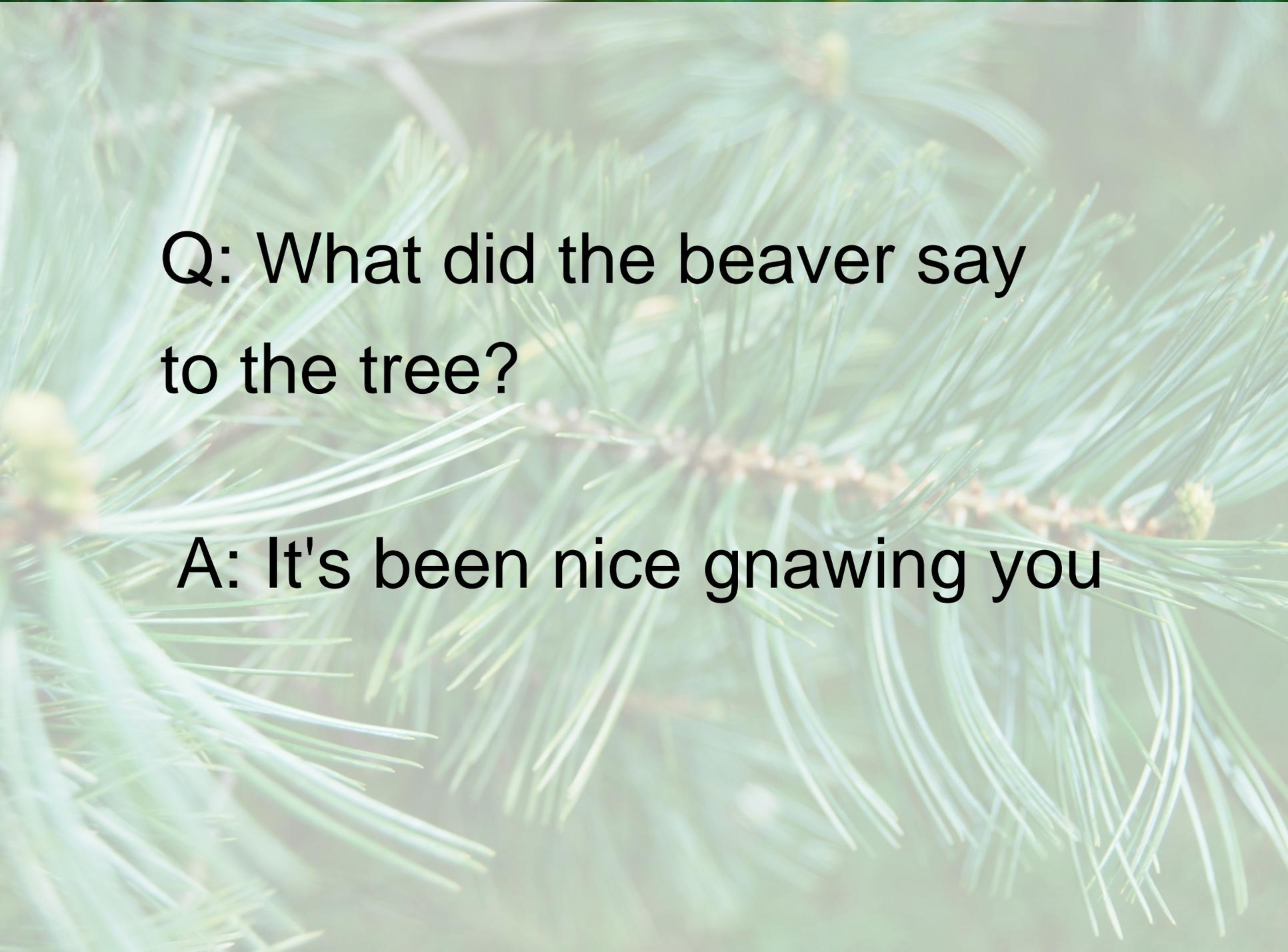


# Douglas Fir



# Subalpine Fir



A close-up photograph of a pine branch with green needles and a small, developing pine cone. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green.

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

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



**Time fir me to leaf yew**

