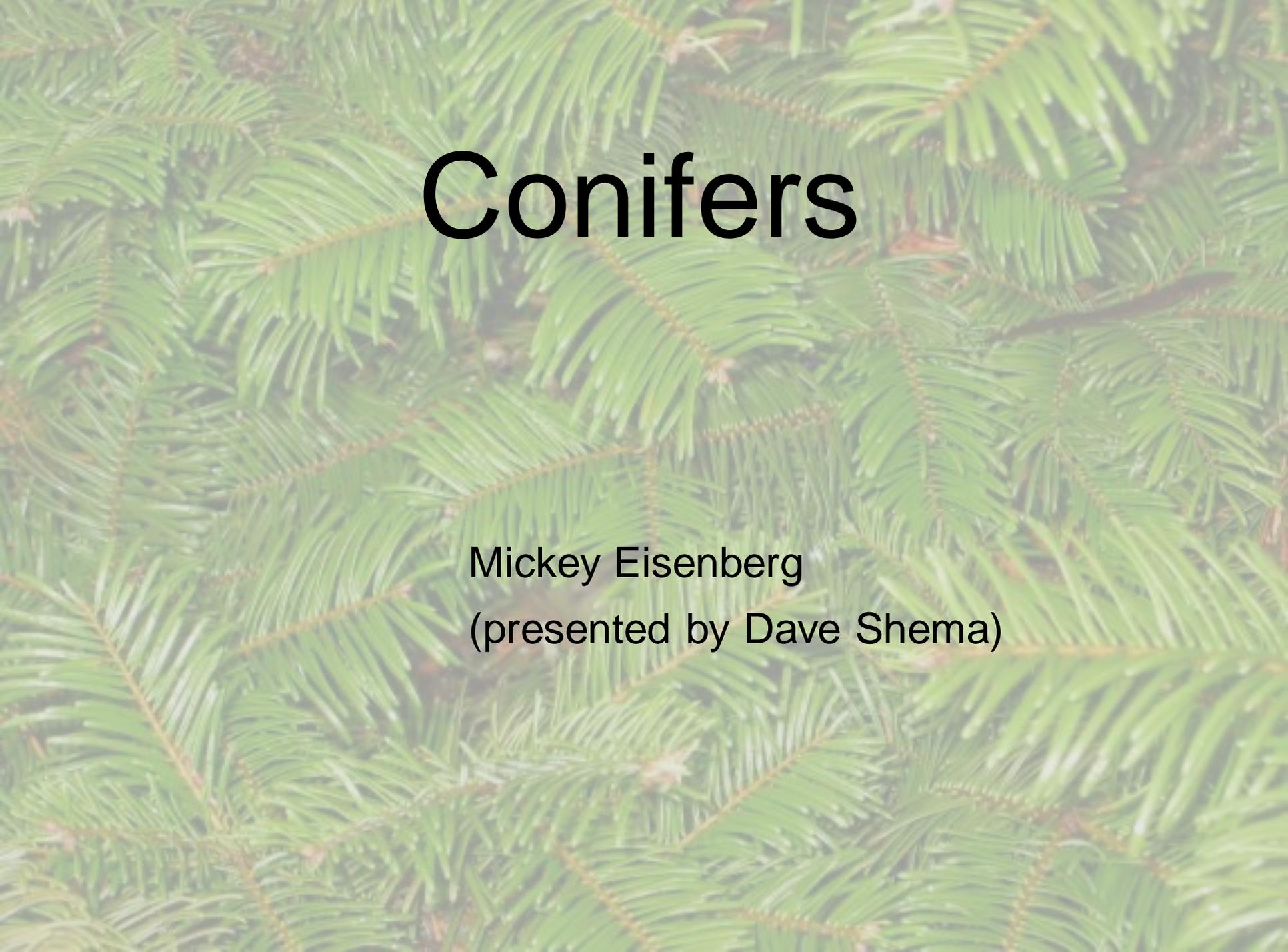


Of all the wonders of nature, a tree in summer is perhaps the most remarkable; with the possible exception of a moose singing "Embraceable You" in spats.

Woody Allen

A close-up photograph of a conifer tree's branches, showing numerous green, needle-like leaves. The needles are arranged in dense, overlapping clusters along the brownish-brown stems. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture and 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[®]

4th Edition

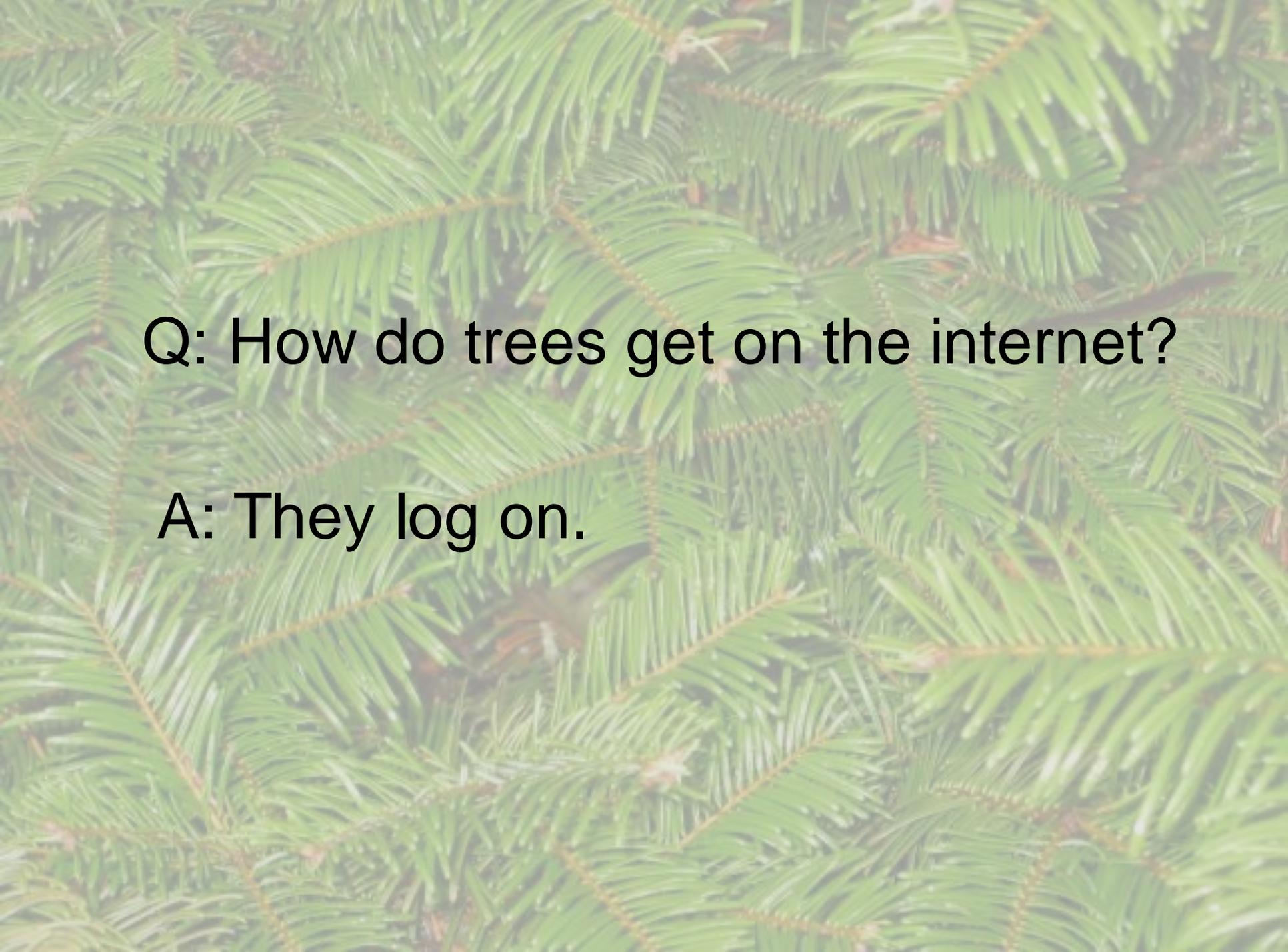
The latest on how
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Paul Bunyan



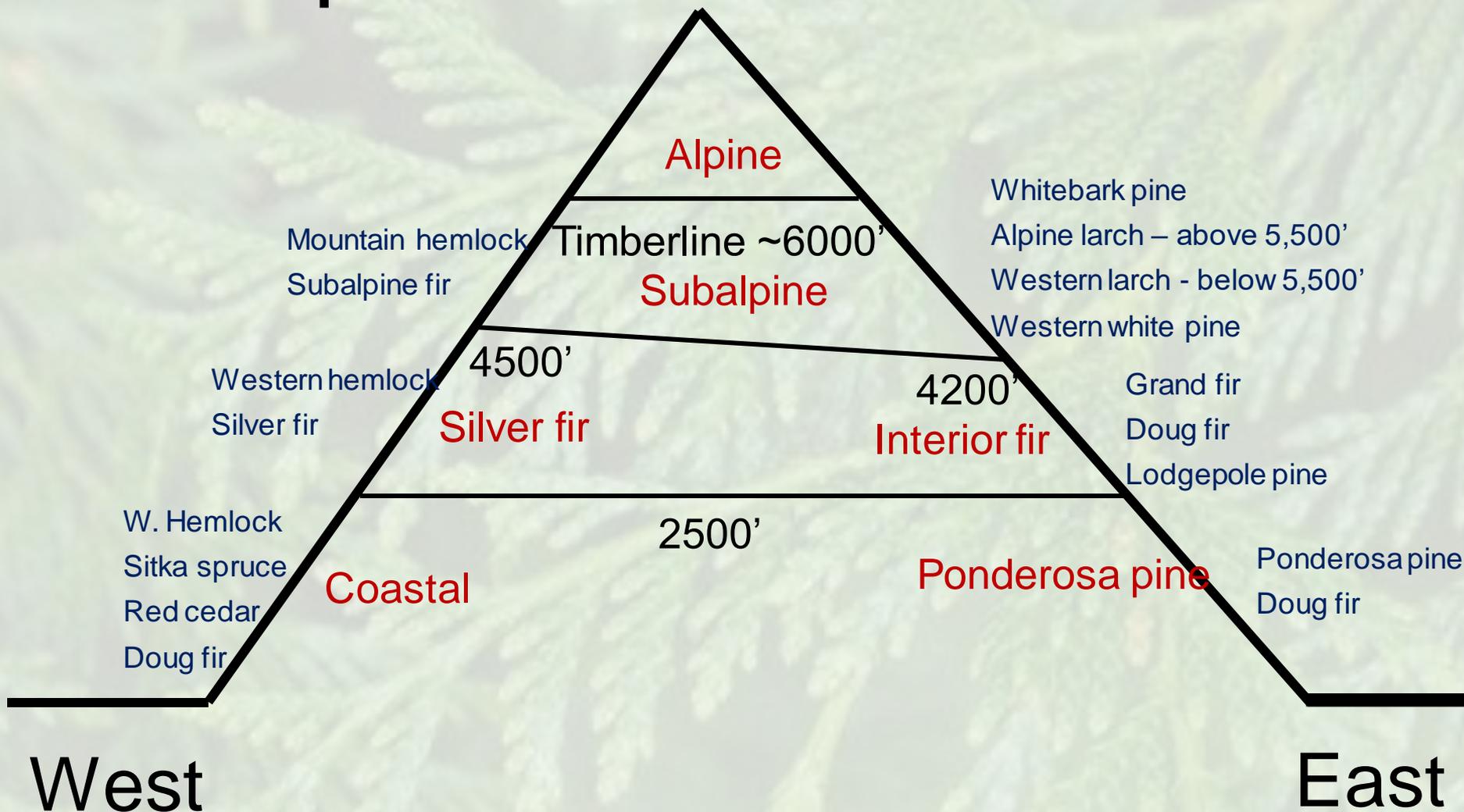
Q: How do trees get on the internet?

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 leaves. The leaves are a vibrant green color and are arranged in a dense, overlapping pattern. The background is slightly blurred, emphasizing the texture and detail of the foliage.

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



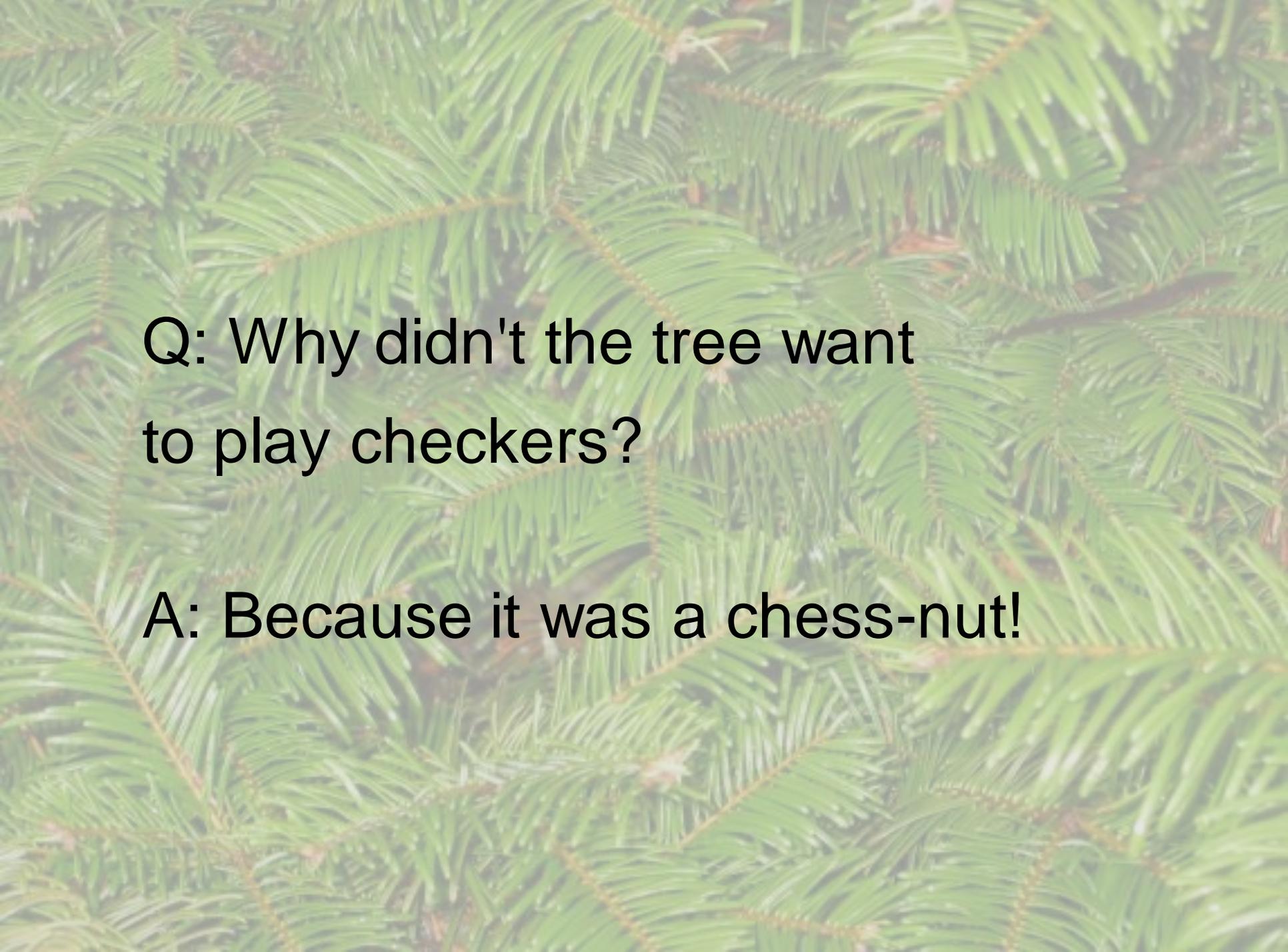
Alaska yellow cedar

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”
- East of crest only
- Bark can look like jigsaw puzzle
- Bark may smell like vanilla or butterscotch



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)

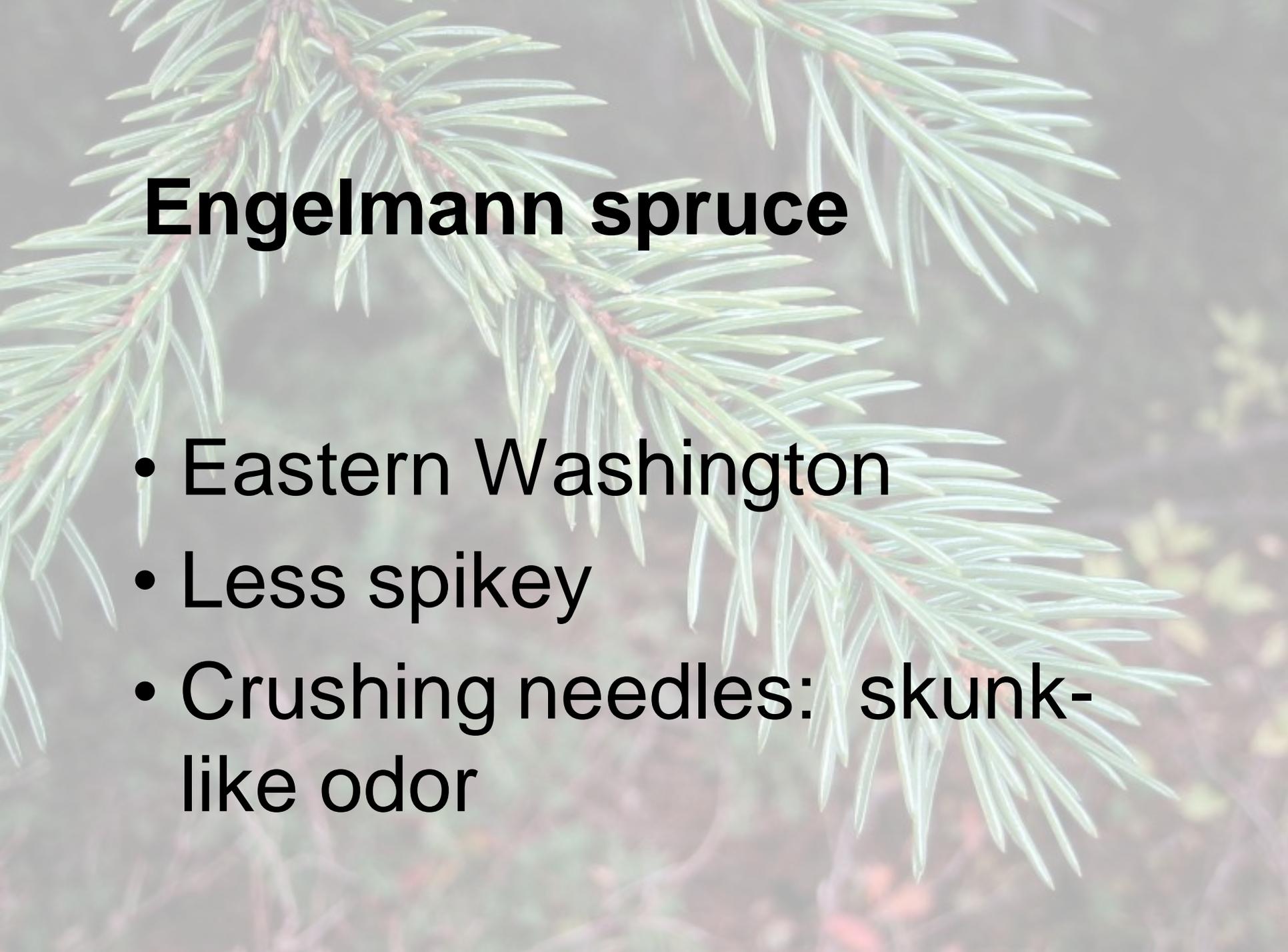
Yew (1)

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.

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





A photograph of a Noble fir tree with several large, brown, textured cones. The tree's branches are covered in dense, bluish-green needles. The background is a clear, light blue sky.

Noble fir

Named by Douglas for
its beauty and majesty

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

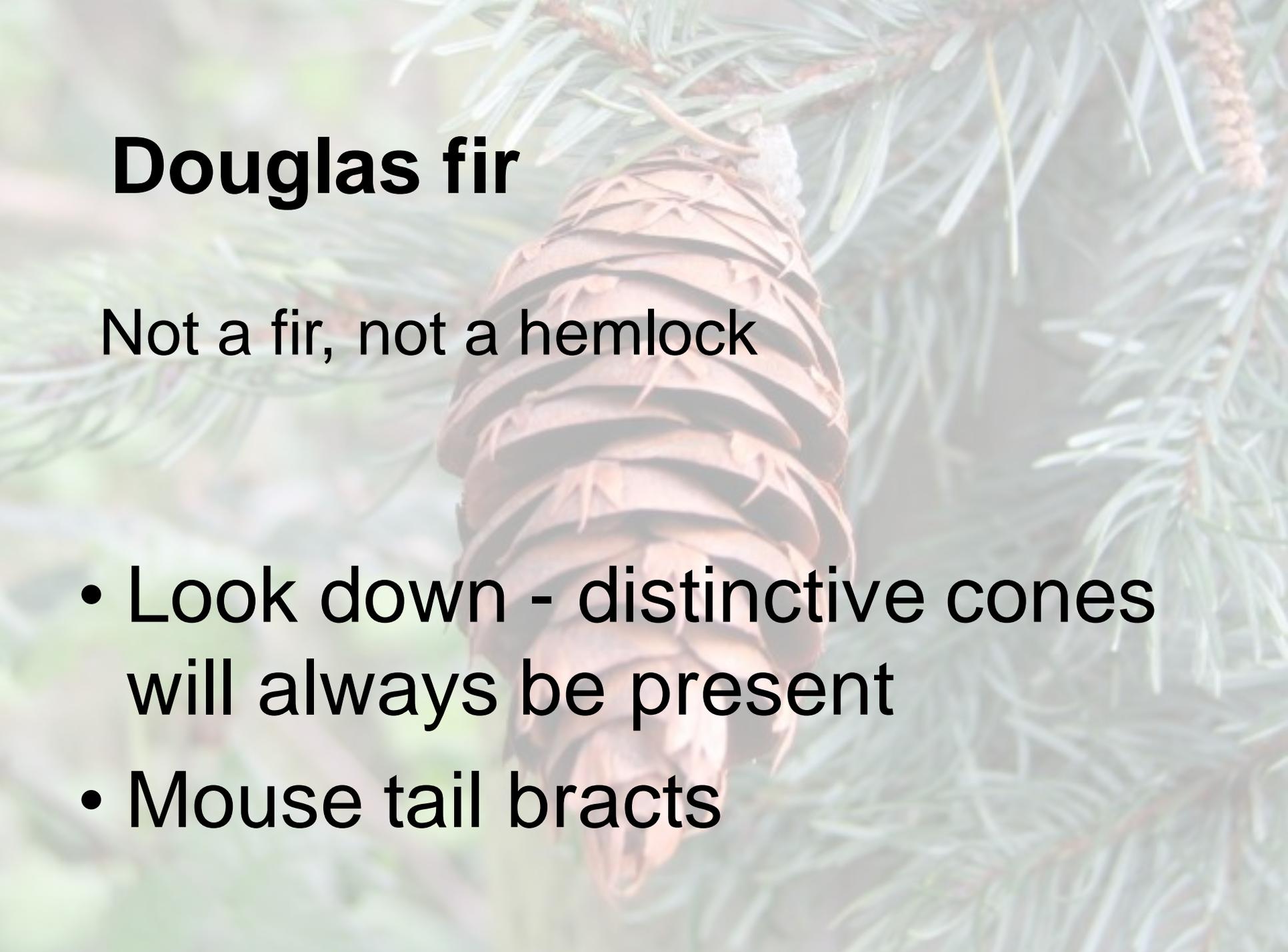


Noble fir

Noble fir



Douglas fir

A close-up photograph of a Douglas fir cone hanging from a branch. The cone is brown and has a distinctive shape with overlapping scales. The background is filled with the blue-green needles of the tree, which are slightly out of focus.

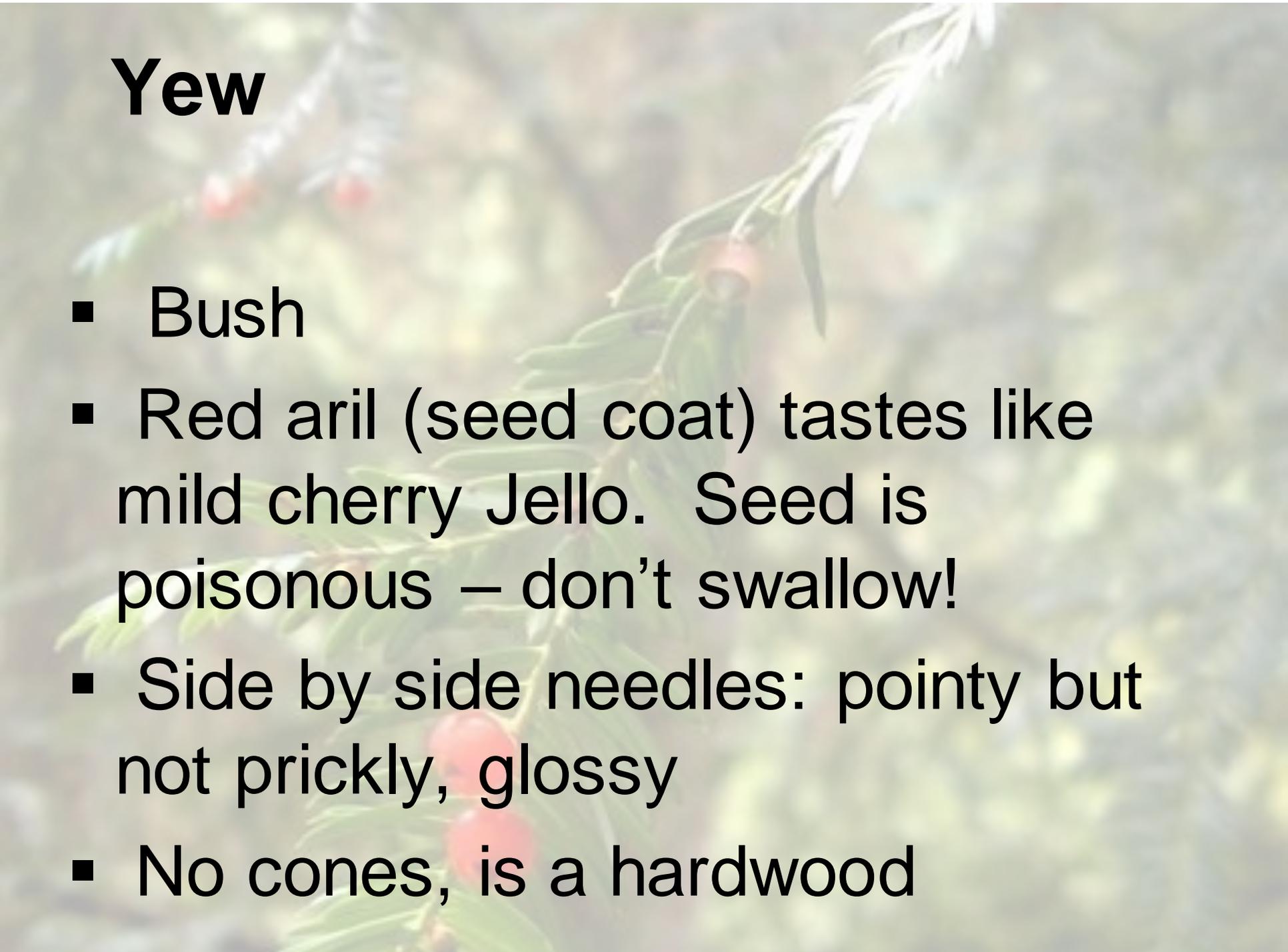
Not a fir, not a hemlock

- **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



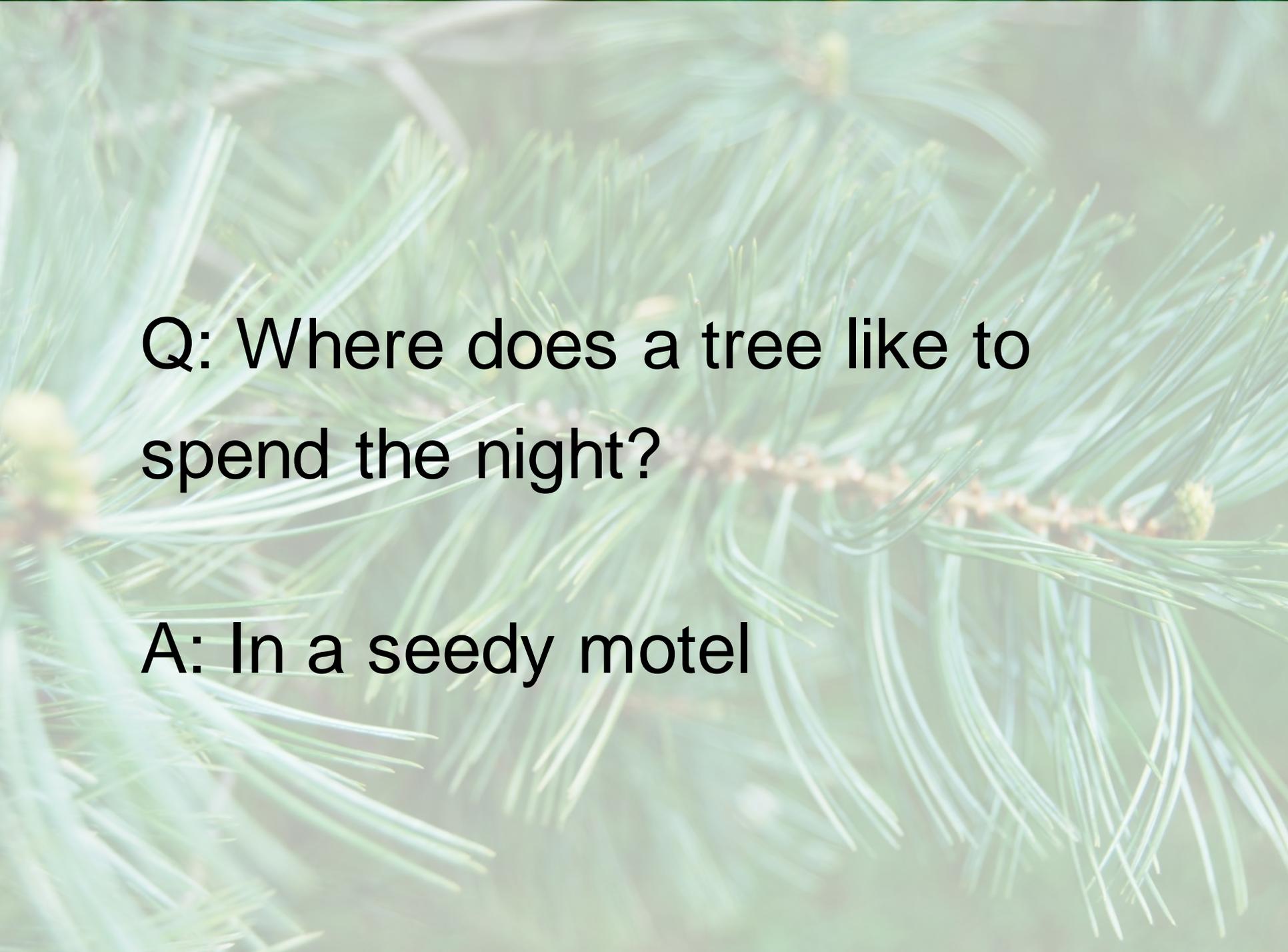
Yew



Yew

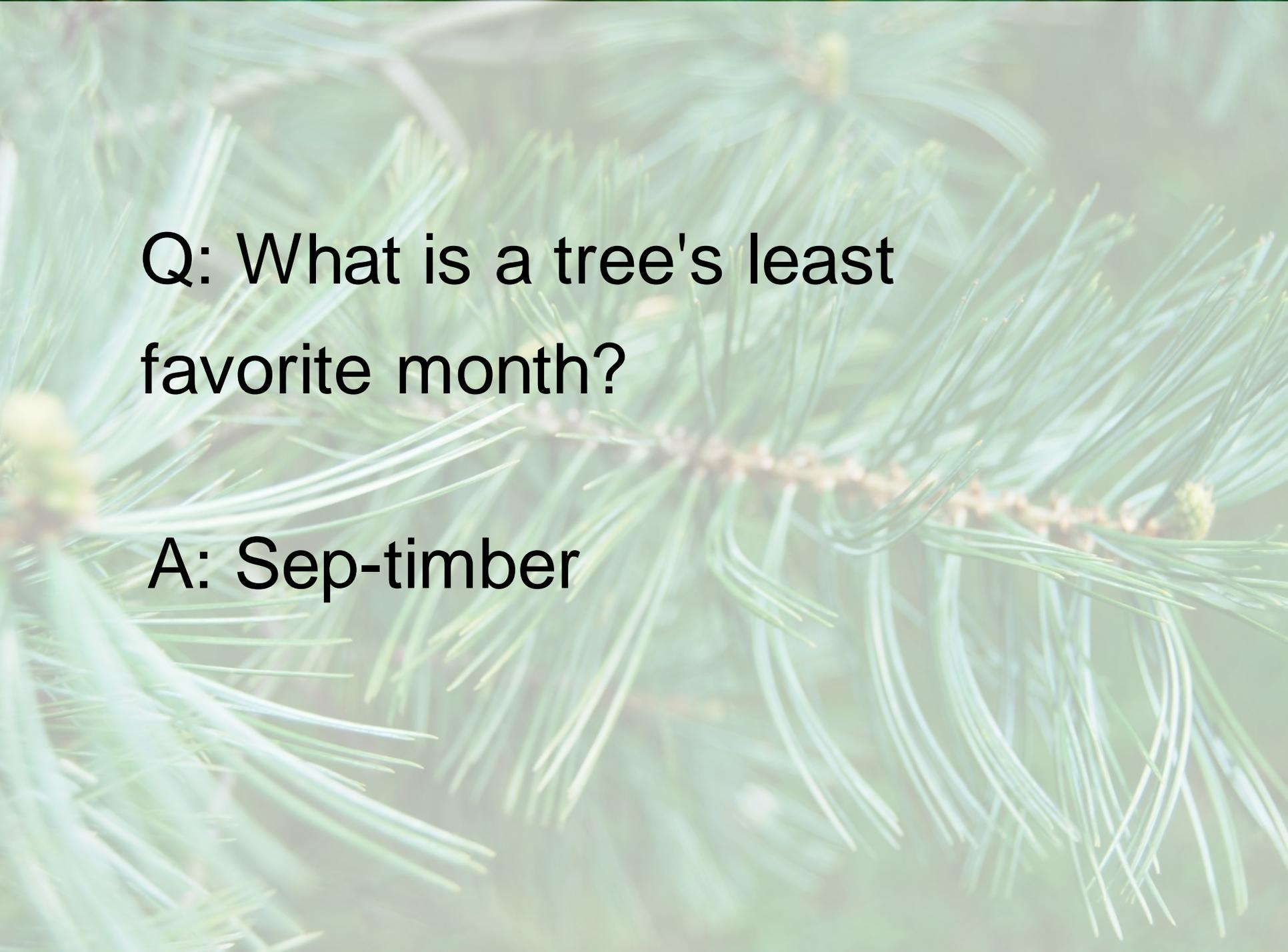
Yew



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: Where does a tree like to spend the night?

A: In a seedy motel



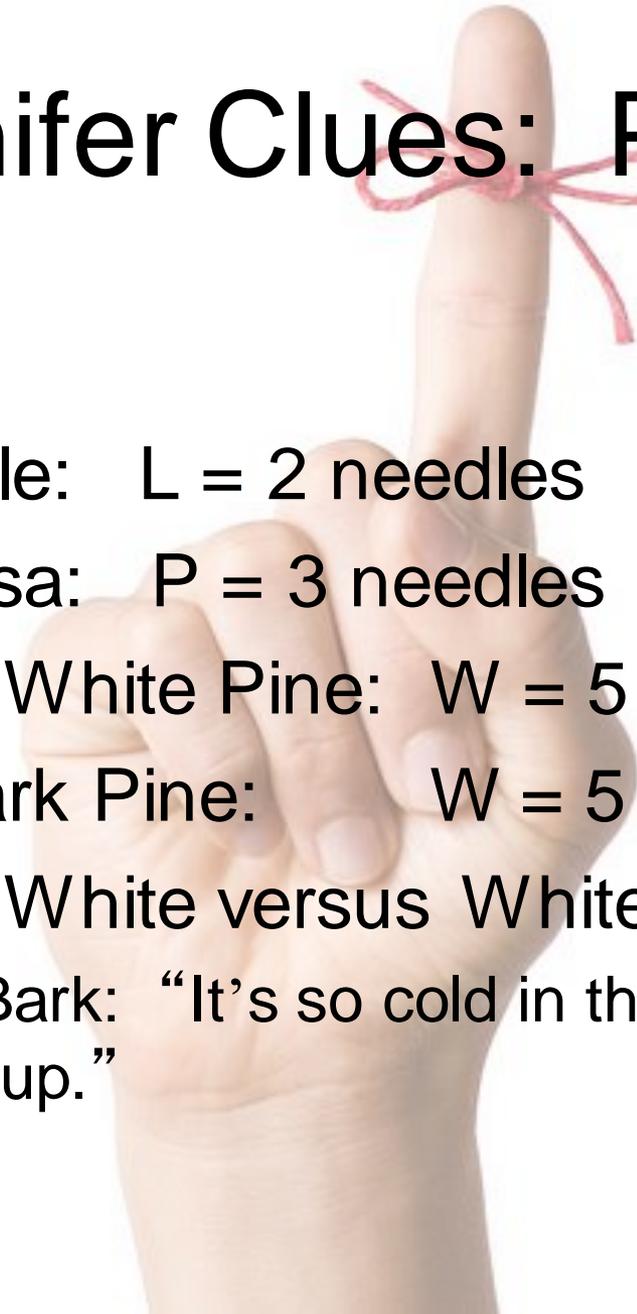
Q: What is a tree's least favorite month?

A: Sep-timber

Mnemonics



Conifer Clues: Pines



- Pines

- Lodgepole: L = 2 needles

- Ponderosa: P = 3 needles

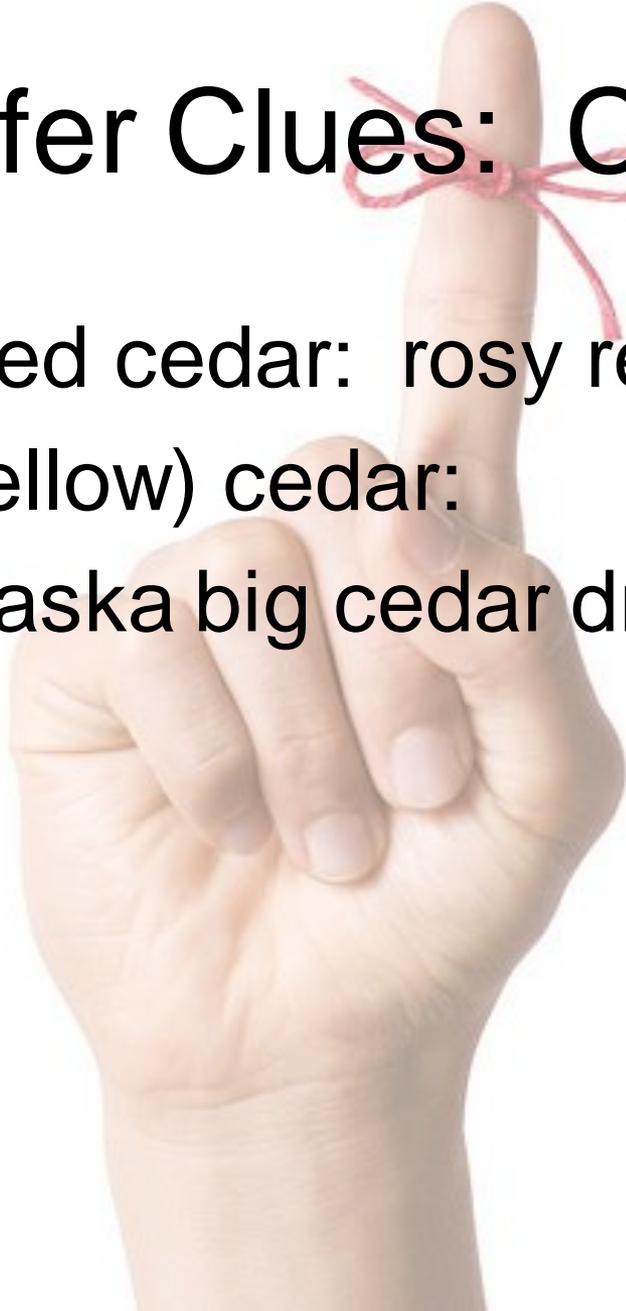
- Western White Pine: W = 5 needles

- 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

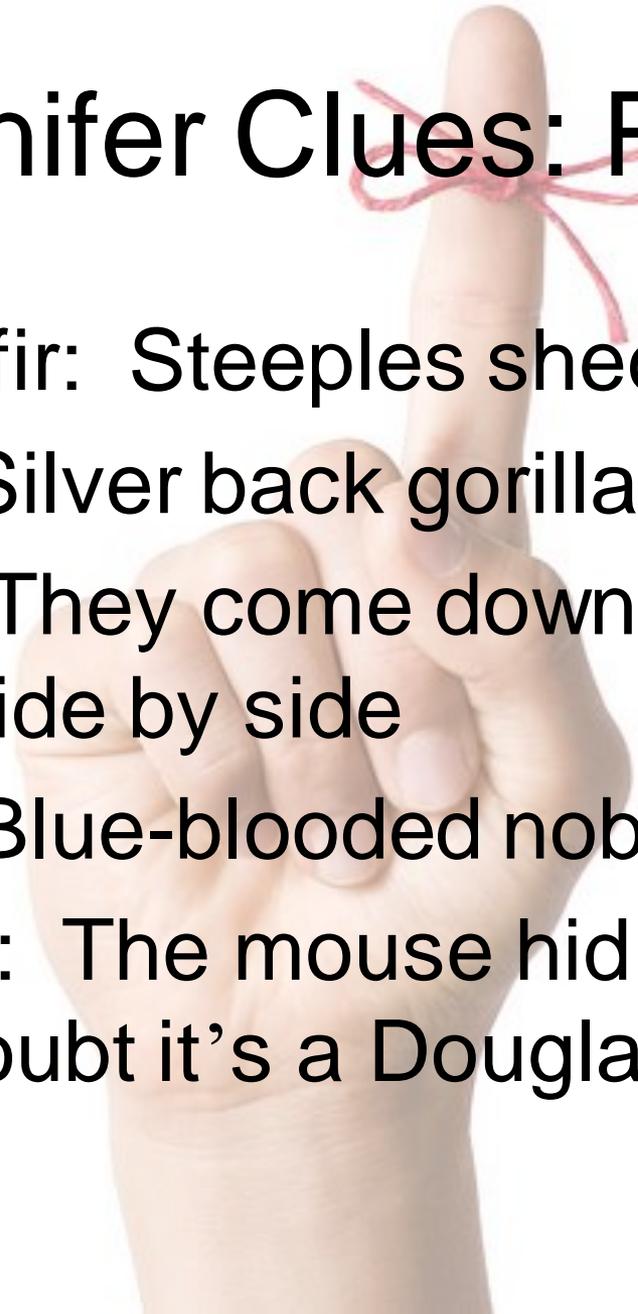
A hand is shown from the wrist up, with the index finger pointing upwards. A thin pink string is tied around the middle of the index finger, forming a small bow. The hand is positioned behind the text, with the index finger pointing towards the word 'Cedars' in the title.

- 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

A hand is shown pointing upwards with the index finger. A red string is tied around the index finger, forming a small bow. The hand is positioned behind the text, with the index finger pointing towards the top of the slide.

- 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

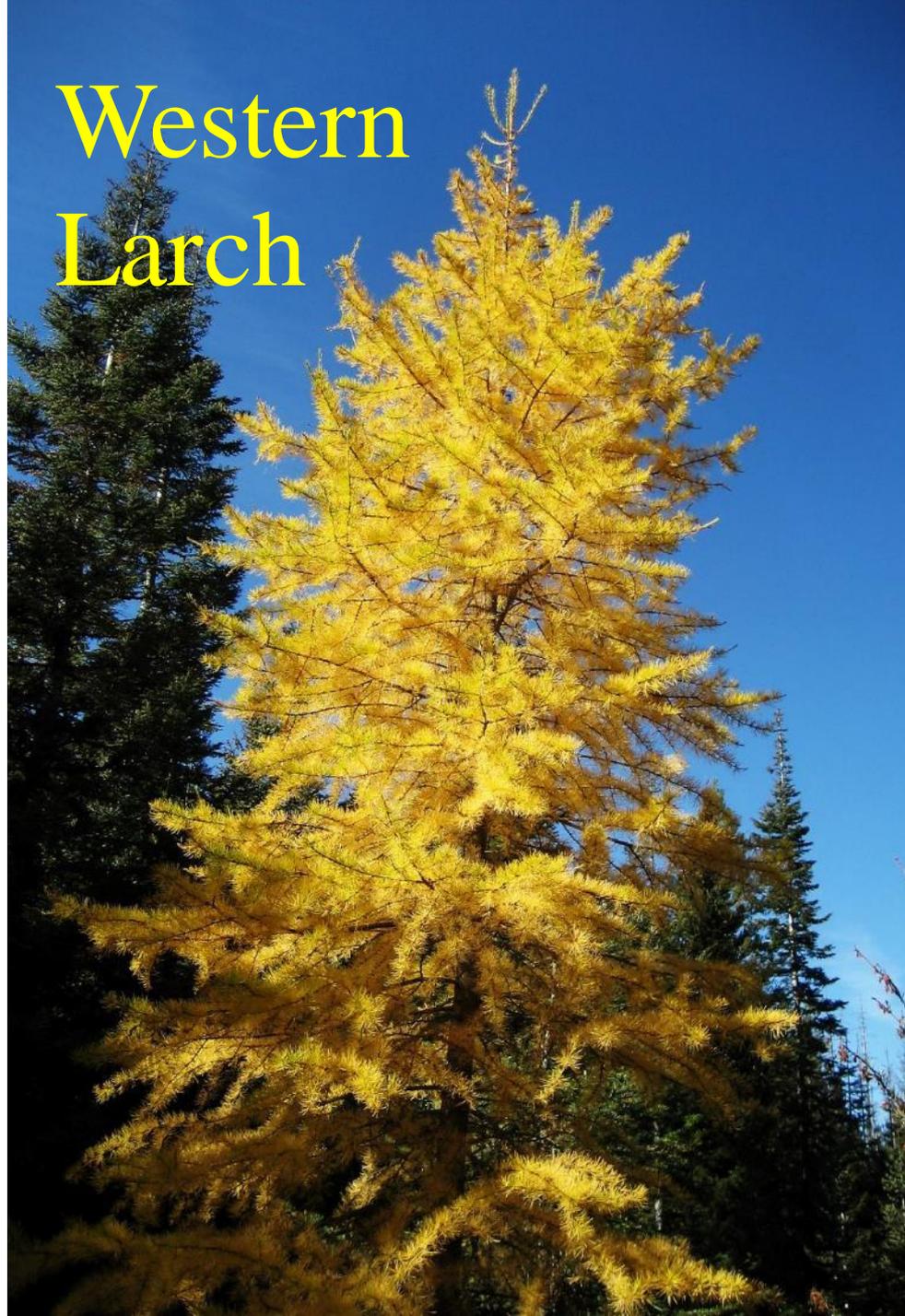
Quiz Time



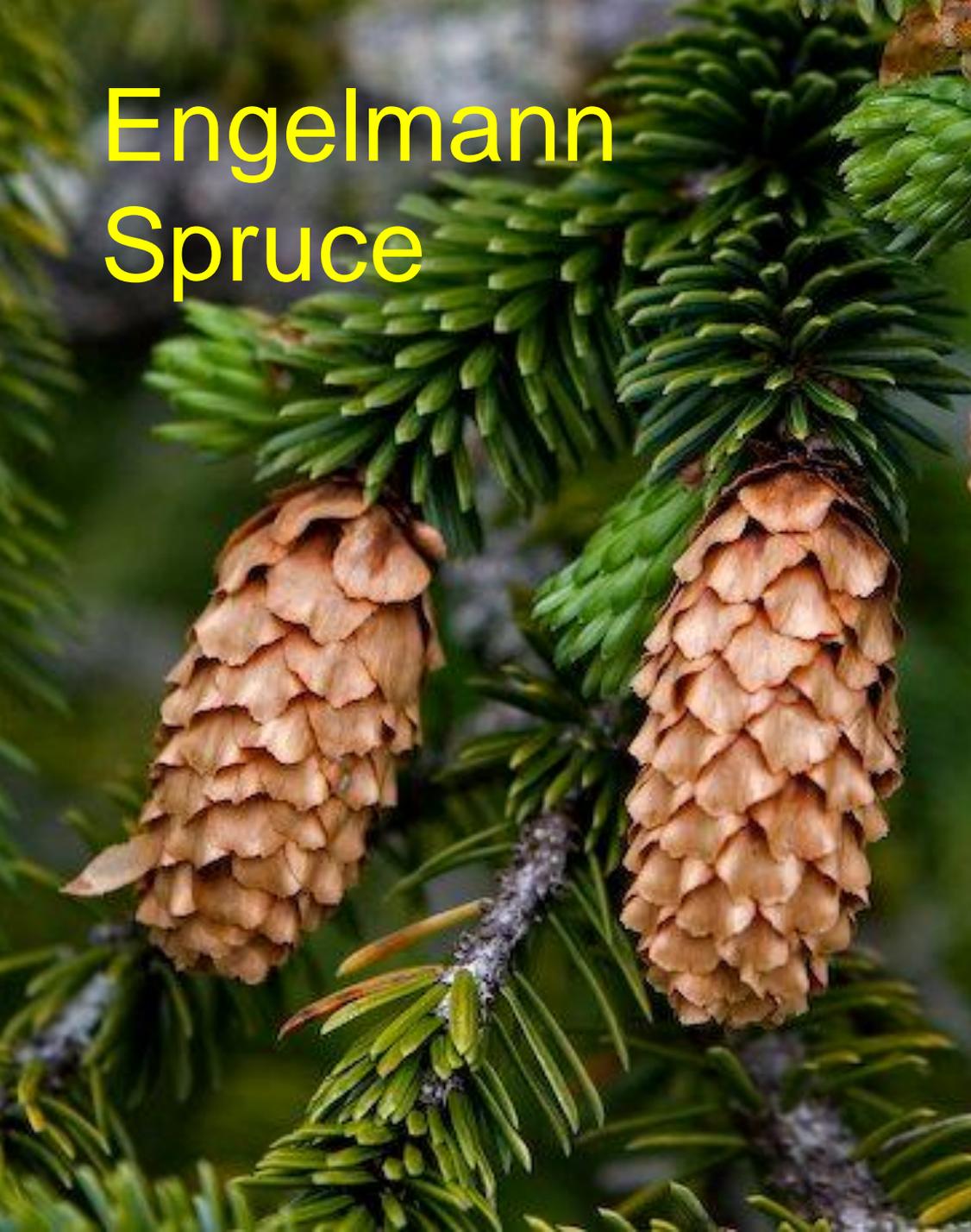


Ponderosa
Pine

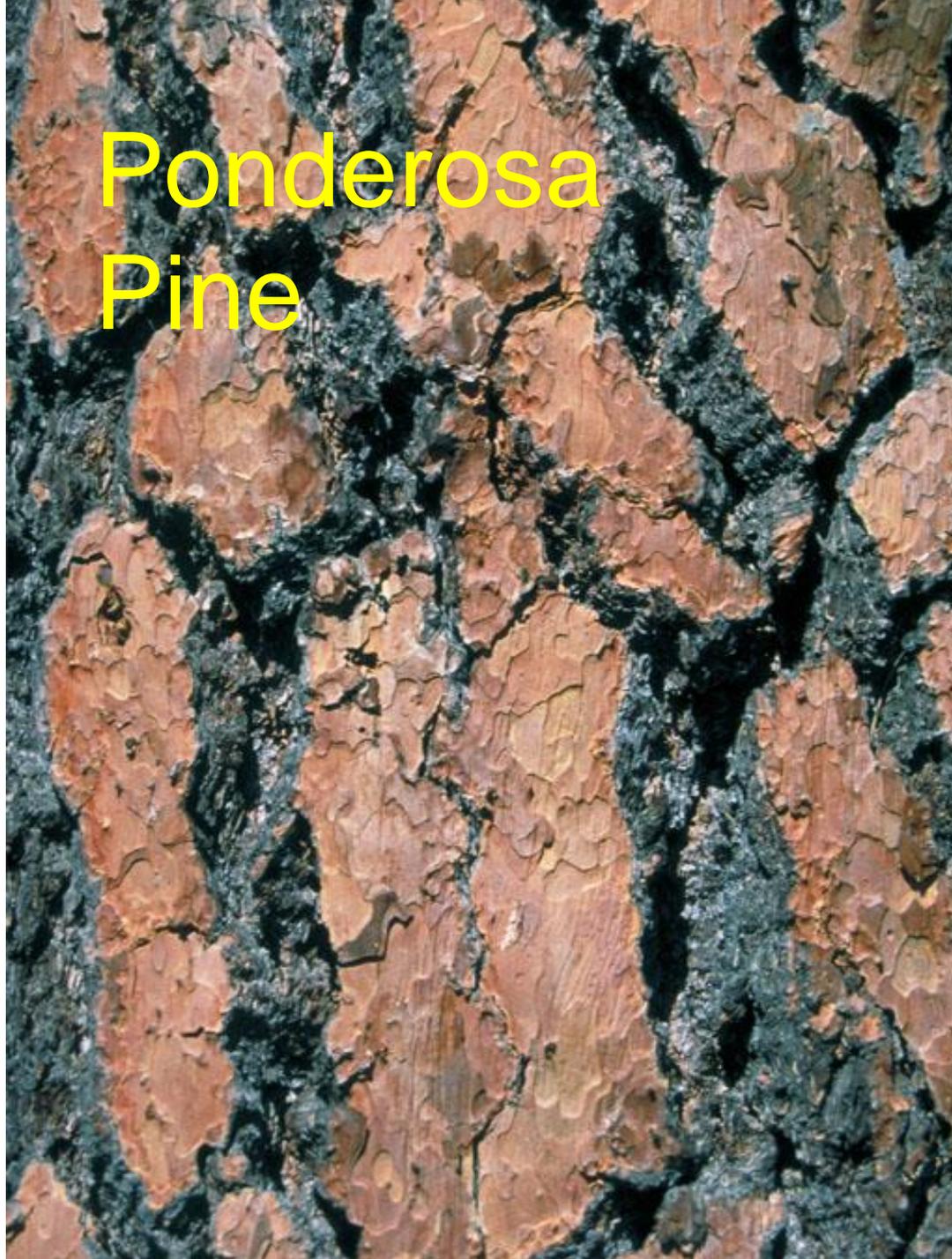
Western Larch



Engelmann Spruce



Ponderosa Pine



Whitebark Pine

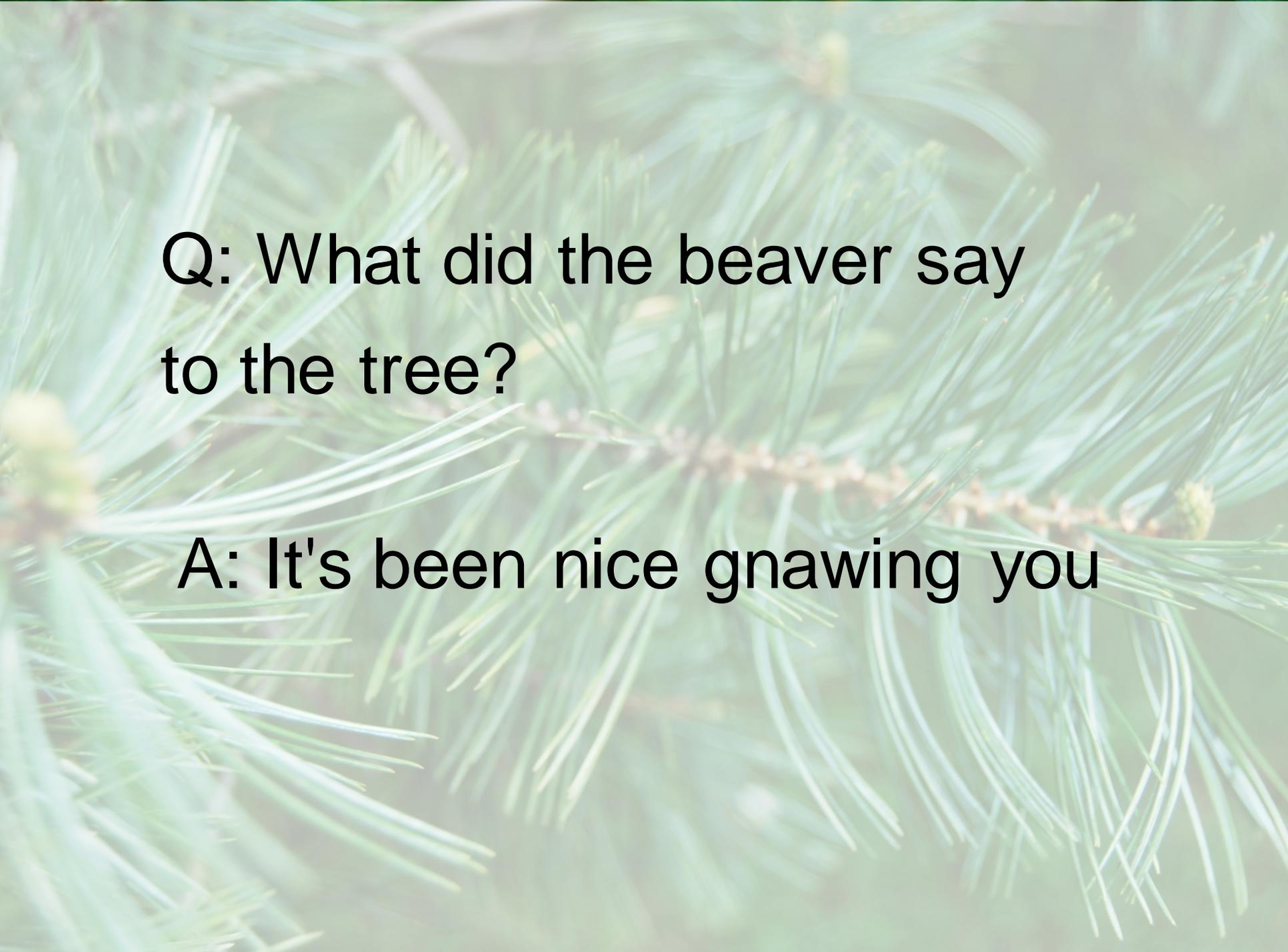


Douglas Fir



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

