

# Identifying Trees

A landscape photograph showing a field of tall grass in the foreground, a line of trees in the middle ground, and a dark mountain range in the background under a cloudy sky.

Looking at Trees

East of the Cascade Crest



# Key Concepts in Identification

- Look for three or more characteristics.
- Geographic Location including elevation
- Habitat at the location and Time of Year
- Leaf type and shape, seed type, bark appearance, general tree shape
- Expect Variation in a species.



# Tools for Tree ID

- Cascade Conifer Chart
- Trees in Washington Wildflower Search
- Trees PNW app
  - Native trees of Pacific NW
- Books





# Trees PNW 4+

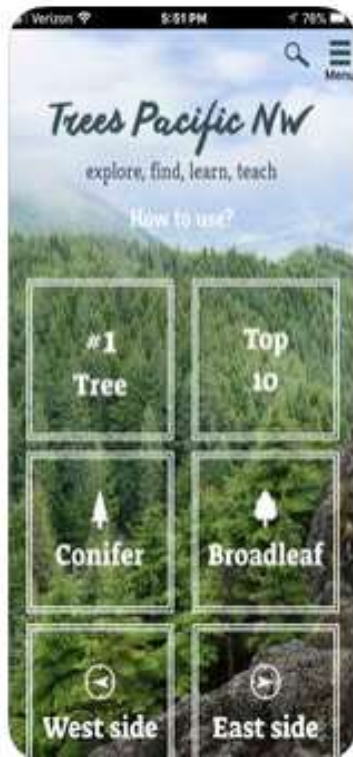
Native trees of the Pacific NW

Cliff Cantor

★★★★☆ 4.1, 11 Ratings

Free

## iPhone Screenshots



# Cascade Conifers

	19 Cascade Conifers	Needles	Cones		Ecology		Other Key Identifiers
<b>Needles: Clustered</b>	Lodgepole Pine	Clusters of <b>2.</b> 1-3"	1-2"	Egg shaped mostly	E&W	0 - treeline	<b>Shore Pine</b> - coastal, short, twisted <b>Ledgepole Pine</b> - inland, tall slender
	Ponderosa Pine	Clusters of <b>3.</b> 5 -10"	3 - 6"		E	0 - 4500'	<b>Bark</b> - reddish brown <b>jigsaw plates.</b>
	Whitebark Pine	Clusters of <b>5 Bundled</b>	2-3"		E mostly	<b>Over 5000'</b>	<b>Alpine areas</b> -- becomes <b>dwarfed</b> , shrublike, twisted
	Western White Pine	Clusters of <b>5 Splayed</b>	<b>6"</b>	cylindrical		Up to 5000'	
	Alpine Larch	Clusters 30-40 4-sided	1"	Bracts	E	<b>Over 5000'</b>	<b>Deciduous</b> , alpine
	Western Larch	Clusters 15-30 3-sided				3000 to 5000'	Deciduous
<b>Needles: Single</b>	Douglas Fir <small>(not true fir)</small>	<b>Bottle brush.</b>		<b>3 pt. bracts</b>	E&W	0 to 4500'	<b>Branches arch upward.</b>
	Silver Fir	<b>Horizontal</b> "ski jumps" on top		Upright cones on tree tops.	W	0 to 5000'	Westside specimens much larger
	Grand Fir	<b>Horizontal, naked</b>		Do not fall.	E&W		
	Noble Fir	<b>Bottle brush</b>	Largest	Only spikes remain	Snoq. P. & south		
	Subalpine Fir				E&W	<b>over 4500'</b>	<b>"Church steeple" shape</b>
	Western Hemlock	<b>Flat even rows variable length</b>	3/4"		W	0 to 4500'	<b>Droopy</b> branch tips
	Mountain Hemlock	<b>Random directions</b>	<b>2"</b>			<b>over 4000'</b>	Less droopy
	Sitka Spruce	Sharp tip - <b>flat</b> x-sect.	3-4"	Thin scales	W	0 to 2000'	Near shore or Columbia Gorge
	Engelmann Spruce	Sharp tip- <b>sq.</b> x-sect.	1 1/2"		E	<b>3000 to 6000'</b>	<b>In high mt. country</b>
	Pacific Yew	Fine soft pt		<b>Red fleshy berry</b>	W	Low - mid. el.	Bush in shade. Bark is red scaly
<b>Scales</b>	Western Red Cedar	Smooth scales	1/2"	Rosebud	W	Up to 4000'	Red scaly bark
	Alaska (Yellow) Cedar	Prickly scales		Roundish		3000 to <b>6500'</b>	<b>Droopy branches.</b>
	Alpine (common) Juniper	Scale-like 1/2"	1/4"	Berrylike	E&W	Mid to <b>alpine</b>	<b>Low spreading</b> shrub to 3' (three other less common junipers in Wa. )



# Needle Types



**CLUSTERS**



**SCALES**



**SINGLE**



**BUNCHES**



# Cones/Seeds





# Do some IDs

- Work singly, in pairs, triplets or by table.
- Do not blurt out the answer if you know it.
- Work through the App, look at Stewart's Chart for conifers.
- Try to understand the characteristics that helped you identify it.
- Help your neighbor.





Ponderosa Pine  
Eastside  
Mid Elevations  
up to 4,500 ft







Lodgepole Pine (shore pine)

Eastside and along coast

0 feet to treeline







Western White Pine  
Primarily Eastside  
Mid Elevations  
Up to 5,000 ft







Whitebark Pine  
High Elevations  
Over 5,000 ft







Engelmann's Spruce  
Mid to High Elevations  
3000 to 6000 ft







Mountain Hemlock

High Elevations  
Over 4,000 ft





Pacific Silver Fir  
Low to Mid Elevations  
East & West Side

2,000 to 5,000 ft





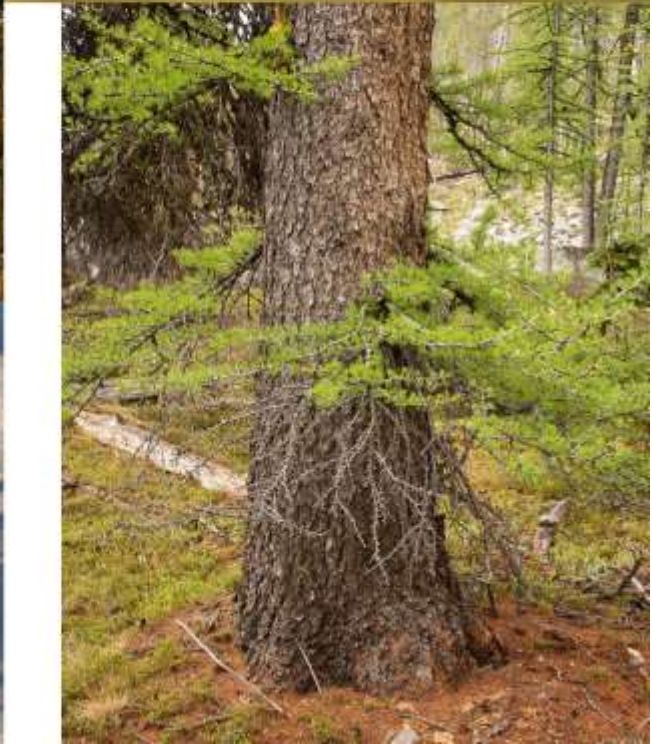
Western Larch  
Mainly Eastside  
3,000 to 5,000 ft







Subalpine Larch  
High Elevation  
Over 5,000 ft







Alaska Cedar

High Elevations

3,000 to 6,500 ft







