

Taxus canadensis

Native to Maine

Canadian Yew,
American Yew

Upland
Forests, Fields, Waters edge, Developed Areas

Leaves



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Look for evergreen needles. The needles lie flat next to each other. Each needle is 1.5 to 2 cm long and dark green.

LEAF ARRANGEMENT	LEAF TYPE	LEAF/LEAFLET SHAPE	LEAF/LEAFLET EDGE
 ALTERNATE	 SIMPLE	 PALMATE	 SMOOTH
 OPPOSITE	 COMPOUND-BIPINNATE	 OVAL	 TOOTHED
 WHORLED	 COMPOUND-PINNATE	 NEEDLE	 WAVY

Plant



Bill Cook, MSU, www.bugwood.org



Look for a low, messy-looking evergreen shrub that spreads along the ground. It can reach up to 2 m tall, but is often only 1 tall.

Stem



Bill Cook, MSU, www.bugwood.org



Look for stems that are covered with a thin, scaly, reddish-brown bark.

Seasonal Change



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The Yew is a coniferous plant that has needles all year long. After July look for the Yew's bright red berry-like seeds that are actually highly modified seed cones.

www.vitalsignsme.org

Similar Species

A good way to tell the Canadian Yew apart from other evergreen species in Maine is to look at the way it grows. The Canadian Yew reaches out along the ground with no clear center. Most species with needles will be trees with a single trunk growing straight up.

Fun Fact

All parts of the Canadian Yew are considered poisonous. Despite this, researchers are studying one of the chemicals made by the Canadian Yew for use in cancer treatment.