

Pinus rigida

Pitch Pine

Native to Maine

Upland
Sandy Uplands

Leaves



KENPEI, Wiki Commons



Look for needles growing in clusters of 3. Needles are 6 to 13 cm in length and are dark green, thick (over 1 mm), and often twist slightly.

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



geneva_wirth, Flickr.com



Look for a medium-sized evergreen (has needles year-round), coniferous (cone-bearing) tree. Trees often have crooked or multiple trunks and grow 6 to 30 m tall.

Stem



KENPEI, Wiki Commons



Look for light brown bark with deep cracks in between plates of bark. New stem bark is rough and spiny. Needles may sprout from the trunk, a unique trait.

Seasonal Change



richardfreeman, Flickr.com



Toward summer's end, look for cones that are 4 to 7 cm long with sharp scales. Female flowers are curved. Male flowers are found in large clusters on twig tips.

Similar Species

Pitch pine looks a lot like red pine and white pine, until you count the needles! Pitch pines have twisting needles in groups of 3. Red pine has groups of 2. White pine has groups of 5. Pitch pines grow in sandy, dry areas with poor soil.

Fun Fact

Pitch pine trees can grow shoots from their trunks. This is an adaptation that helps the trees recover after fire damages their crowns (tops). This tree is sometimes used in making charcoal.