

Pinus strobus

White Pine
Eastern white pine

Native to Maine

Upland
Forests and Fields

Leaves



Robert H. Mohlenbrock, USDA-NRCS



Look for needles that are finely toothed, 5-13 cm long, slender, flexible, and blue-green in color. Needles grow in fascicles (groups) of five.

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

Plant



Flickr user pdinnen



Look for a large evergreen tree with a very straight trunk often as tall as 30 m and 9-15 m wide. Branches come off the trunk in a whorled pattern.

Stem



Flickr user RadioFish



On young trees bark is thin, smooth and gray-green. On mature trees bark is thick, reddish to grayish brown and has rounded, long ridges and darker furrows.

Seasonal Change



Flickr user sciondriver



Look for yellow catkins (petal-less flowers) and pink immature cones in the spring. Mature cones are 8-16 cm long. Seeds are wind-dispersed in late summer.

Similar Species

There are no similar species in eastern North America, although two similar species, Western White Pine and Sugar Pine occur in the west.

Fun Fact

Mature trees can easily be 200 to 250 years old. Some white pines live over 400 years. A tree growing near Syracuse, New York was determined to be 458 years old in the late 1980s and trees in Wisconsin and Michigan have approached 500 years in age.

Researched and created by: Rebecca Martin

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