

Pinus strobus

Native to Maine

White Pine
Eastern white pine

Upland
Forests and Fields

Leaves



VS user briangriffin, Westbrook & 000046, Falmouth



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



VS user invasinator, Jordan Small Middle School



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

Stem



VS user WCDOAGN, Jordan Small Middle School



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



VS user ginger, Oakland & Flickr user sciondriver



Look for pink immature cones in the spring. Mature cones are 8-16 cm long. Seeds are wind-dispersed in late summer.

Similar Species

White pines always have needles in bundles of 5. Red pines and pitch pines have similar-looking needles, but they have fewer needles per bundle. Red pines have bundles of 2 needles. Pitch pines have bundles of 3.

Did You Know?

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.

Researched and created by Rebecca Martin

Help us improve this species card! Contact us with your updates.