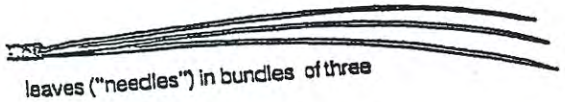
General Tree Identification

Ponderosa Pine
Pinus ponderosa

This tree is valuable for wildlife and lumber. The bark forms "Puzzle-like" shapes, and older trees may have a vanilla scent up close. Needles are 4-8 inches long, bright to dark green, and occur in bundles of three.

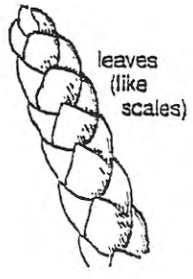


Pinyon Pine
Pinus edulis

This tree is most famous for the nuts produced in the cone. Pinyon nuts are sometimes called pine nuts or Christmas nuts. Needles are usually found in bundles of two. They are ¾ to 1½ inches long, light green in color, sharp and sturdy.

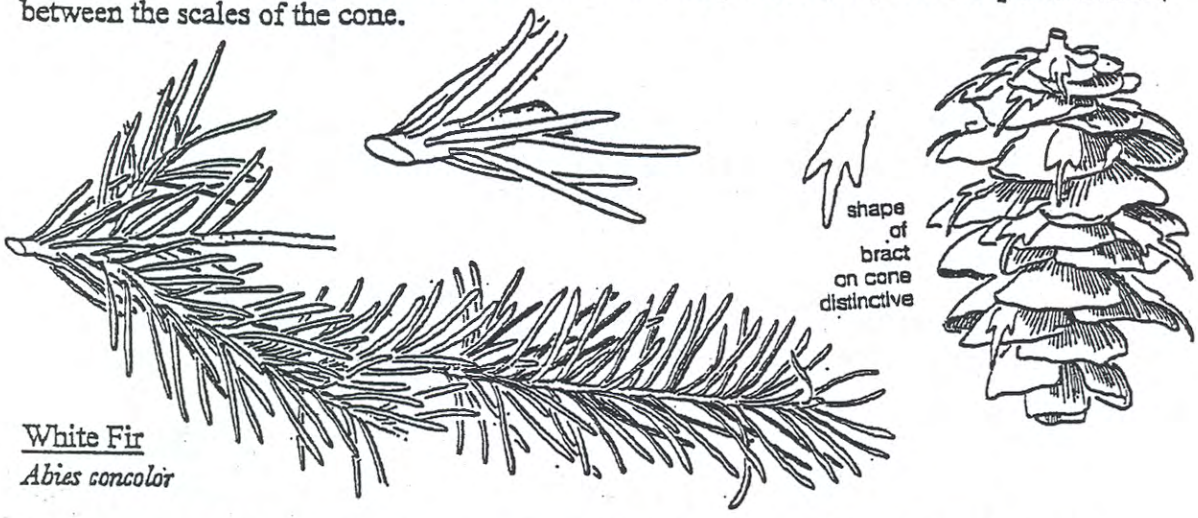
Juniper
Juniperus

All types of Juniper were utilized by the early settlers. These trees have small scale-like "leaves", and produce purple to pale blue "berries". While not a true berry, they are an important food source for wildlife. Foliage is pale silver to deep green in color.



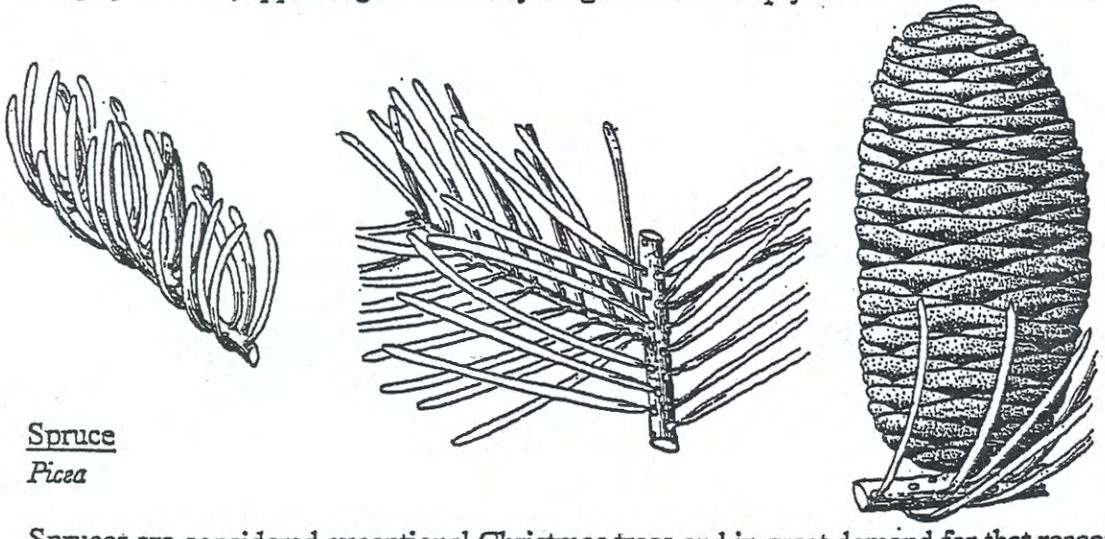
Douglas-Fir
Pseudotsuga menziesii

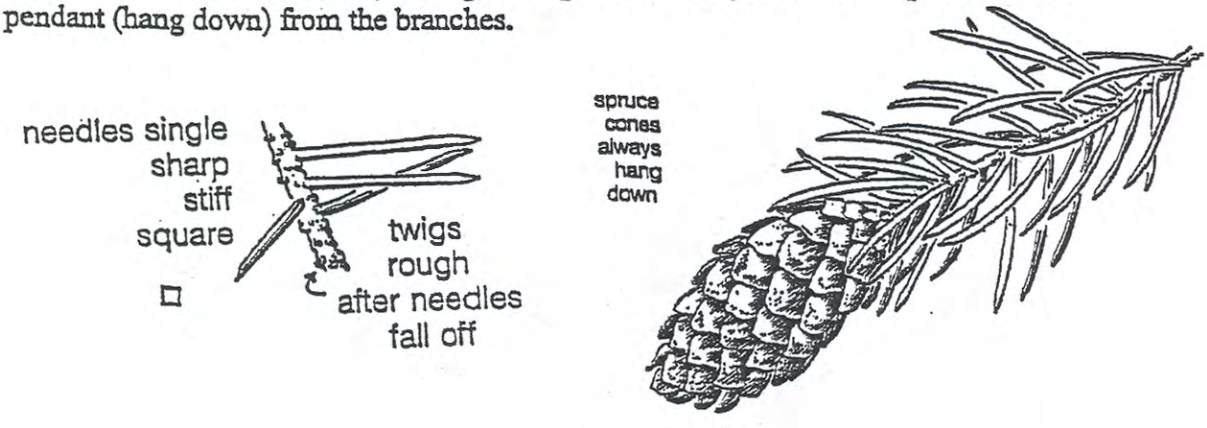
Although the Douglas-fir is not a true fir, it is considered a prized old fashioned Christmas tree. This tree is also known for its fine lumber. Needles are ¾ to 1¼ inches long, yellow-green to blue-green in color, flat, and narrowed at the base. Branches have a bottlebrush appearance, when viewed from the end. The cone is very distinctive, with a 3-pointed bract between the scales of the cone.



White Fir
Abies concolor

This evergreen is highly prized as a commercial Christmas tree. Needles are 1¼ to 2½ inches long, blue-green and flexible. Needles appear in two nearly perpendicular rows. Mature cones are 3 to 5 inches long and grow erect (straight up) on the branch. The Bark is ash gray in color, appearing smooth on young trees and deeply furrowed on older trees.



Spruce
Picea

Spruces are considered exceptional Christmas trees and in great demand for that reason. The needles are $^5/_8$ to $1^1/_8$ inches long, blue-green in color, stiff and sharp. Cones are pendant (hang down) from the branches.