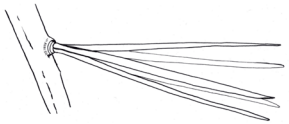
Key to the Coniferous Trees in Glacier

1. Tree has needles.....**Go to 2**
1. Tree has tiny *scale-like leaves* with flattened branches... .....**Western Red Cedar**

scale-like leaves

2. Needles are in *bunches*.....**Go to 3**
2. Needles are *single* (come out of the branch 1 at a time).....**Go to 8**

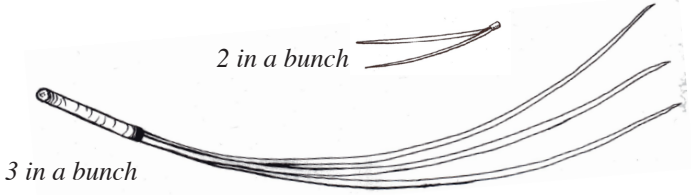


needles in bunches

single needles

3. Needles are more than 5 in a bunch, in dense brush-like clusters, short, and very soft.....**Western Larch**
3. Needles 2 - 5 in a bunch.....**Go to 4**

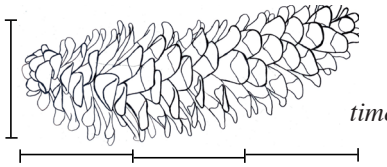
4. Needles in *bunches of 2's or 3's*.....**Go to 5**
4. Needles in bunches of 5.....**Go to 6**



2 in a bunch

3 in a bunch

5. Needles *2 in a bunch* and about 1.5 inches long.....**Lodgepole Pine**
5. Needles mostly *3 in a bunch* and very long (5 - 8 inches) ....**Ponderosa Pine**



cone about 3 times as long as wide

6. Some needles longer than 3 inches; *cones about 3 times as long as wide*; low elevations west of the Divide.....**Western White Pine**
6. Needles less than 3 inches long; cones 2 times as long as wide; trunk may be twisted and gnarled; high elevations or east of the Continental Divide.....**Go to 7**

turn over --->

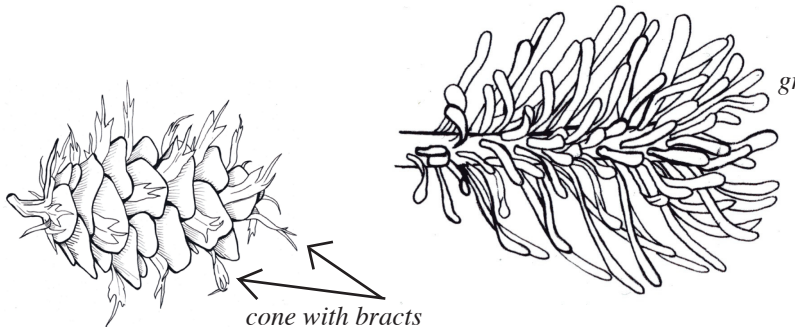
7. Cones 2 - 5 inches long; scales thinner toward the tip than base.....**Limber Pine**
7. Cones 1.5 - 3 inches long; scales thicker toward the tip than the base... .....**Whitebark Pine**

8. Needles are stiff and sharp to the touch; needles are square and roll between your fingers.....**Engelmann Spruce**
8. Needles are flat.....**Go to 9**

9. Plant is very small with multiple woody stems (shrub rather than a tree); needles are in rows along the side of the branches; needles have small points; red berries may be present.....**Pacific Yew***

(*Note: the Pacific Yew is neither a tree nor a conifer)

9. *Needles are blunt* (rounded); no red berries; not shrub-like; cones may be present.....**Go to 10**



needles grow around the branch and have blunt tips

cone with bracts (looks like a tail sticking out from under scales)

10. Top of tree droops over; cones very small and at end of flat branches; short needles with white stripes on the underside.....**Western Hemlock**
10. Top of tree does not droop over; needles longer than 1/2 inch..... .....**Go to 11**

11. Cones have *bracts*; needles *grow around the branch*; needles narrow at base into a short stem (petiole).....**Douglas-fir**
11. Cones do not have *bracts*; wide needles fused to branch.....**Go to 12**

12. Needles *grow around the branch*, and point up; small white stripes occur on both sides of the needles.....**Subalpine Fir**
12. On lower branches needles in two rows along sides, on upper branches needles on all sides of a branch; white striped on underside of needles.....**Grand Fir**