



Conifer Guide

Lassen Volcanic National Park features 12 conifer species. This diversity stems from Lassen's unique location at the convergence of the Great Basin and the Cascade and Sierra Nevada mountain ranges.



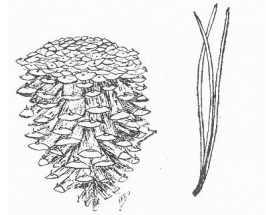
Cone: 3-5"
Needles: 5-10"

Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*)

ID Tip: Roll cone between your hands. Ponderosa cones feel prickly.

Fun Fact: Ponderosa's puzzle-like bark can grow up to three inches thick and protects the tree from fire.

Park Area: Manzanita Lake, Warner Valley



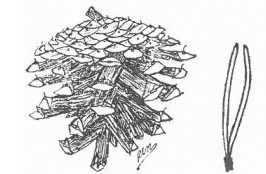
Cone: 5-10"
Needles: 5-10"

Jeffrey Pine (*Pinus jeffreyi*)

ID Tip: Roll cone between your hands. Jeffrey cones feel smooth.

Fun Fact: Smell a crevice in the bark and see if you can detect the aroma of butterscotch or vanilla. Ponderosas emit a similar scent.

Park Area: Manzanita Lake, Butte Lake



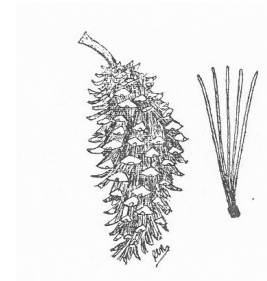
Cone: 1-2.5"
Needles: 1.5-2.5"

Lodgepole Pine (*Pinus contorta*)

ID Tip: A pioneer species, lodgepole is commonly found edging ponds, lakes and meadows.

Fun Fact: Lodgepole, prized for its straight and sturdy trunks, has been used to make utility poles and American Indian lodges.

Park Area: Juniper Lake, Warner Valley



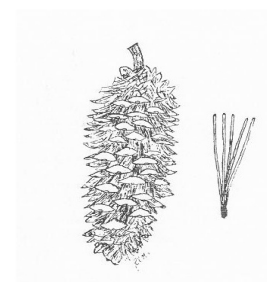
Cone: 5-8"
Needles: 2-3.5"

Western White Pine (*Pinus monticola*)

ID Tip: Features a curved cone stalk and smooth grey bark.

Fun Fact: These pines are highly susceptible to blister rust, a deadly fungus imported from France in 1910.

Park Area: Scattered at 6,000 - 9,000 ft. elevations



Cone: 12-24"
Needles: 2-3.5"

Sugar Pine (*Pinus lambertiana*)

ID Tip: Cones can be up to 2 ft. in length, the longest in the pine family. Cones hang near the ends of branches and have straight stalks.

Fun Fact: American Indians gathered and ate the large, sweet seeds.

Park Area: Manzanita Lake, Warner Valley



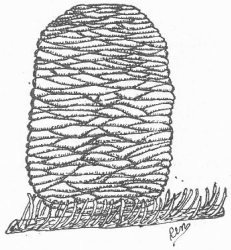
Cone: 1-3"
Needles: 1-2.5"

Whitebark Pine (*Pinus albicaulis*)

ID Tip: Whitebark pines, found on exposed slopes, are often twisted and stunted from strong winds.

Fun Fact: The Clark's Nutcracker, a black and white jay-sized bird, stores up to 90,000 whitebark pine seeds per year. Uneaten seeds have the chance to germinate.

Park Area: Bumpass Hell, Lassen Peak



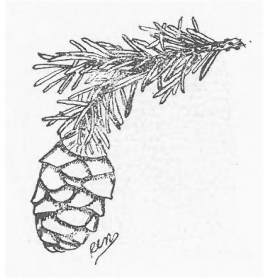
Red Fir (*Abies magnifica*)

ID Tips: Mature trees feature red bark. The branching pattern on the underside of young trees resembles a snowflake.

Fun Facts: Mountaineers made comfortable beds from its lush, sweet-smelling boughs. Lassen’s old growth red fir forest contains trees up to 300 years of age.

Park Area: Summit Lake to south park entrance

Cone: 4-8”
Needles: 0.75-1.5”



Mountain Hemlock (*Tsuga mertensiana*)

ID Tips: Treetops and branches droop like a sorcerer’s hat and shed snow easily. Seeds fall near the parent tree, causing saplings to root in clusters. Clustering may be an adaptation to protect shade tolerant saplings from wind and sun.

Fun Facts: Mountain hemlock was John Muir’s favorite conifer. It is well adapted to heavy snow and thin soil.

Park Area: 6,000 ft. to timberline

Cone: 1.5-3.5”
Needles: 0.25-1”

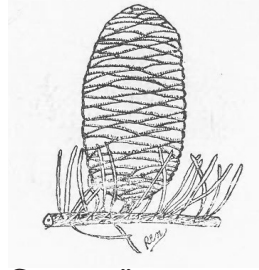
Western Juniper (*Juniperus occidentalis*)

ID Tips: Look for small, blue “berries,” which are actually cones. Juniper leaves are scale-like.

Fun Facts: Juniper cones are used to flavor gin. The word “gin” comes from *genièvre*, the French name for juniper.

Park Area: Eastern side of Juniper Lake

Cone: 0.25-0.5”
Leaves: 0.125”



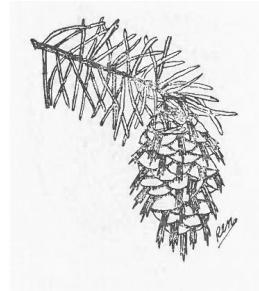
White Fir (*Abies concolor*)

ID Tip: White fir is a popular Christmas tree due to its silvery needles.

Fun Facts: Cones on firs grow upright on the branch like candles. They disintegrate on the tree, dispersing their seeds by wind. Cones on the ground – a rare sight – are the result of squirrels harvesting them for seeds.

Park Area: Manzanita Lake, Warner Valley

Cone: 2-5”
Needles: 0.5-2”



Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)

ID Tip: Look for “mouse tails” – known as bracts – protruding from cones.

Fun Facts: Douglas-fir is a member of the pine family and not a true fir. Douglas-firs are the world’s second-tallest conifer next to the coastal redwood.

Park Area: Manzanita Lake

Cone: 1.25-3”
Needles: 0.5-1.5”



Incense-cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*)

ID Tips: Fibrous and reddish bark resembles that of redwood trees. Incense-cedar leaves are scale-like.

Fun Fact: Have you sharpened your #2 pencil lately? The unique smell of pencil shavings is the scent of incense-cedar.

Park Area: Scattered in areas below 6,500 ft.

Cone: 0.75-1”
Leaves: 0.25”