

## *Conifer Key*

1. *Cupressus* – True cypress:
  - branch habit: forks on 2 planes
  - leaves: round or pointed scales
  - cones: .5 – 1.5 inches (C. macrocarpa Monterey cyp. 2 inches)
2. *Chamaecyparis* – False cypress
  - branch habit: flat, forks on one plane
  - leaves: pointed needles (juvenile); scales (adult)
  - cones: .25-.50 inch
3. *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* (Lawson false cypress)
  - leaves: scales with incurved tips
  - male pollen sac: red and black
  - cones: many; .50 inch; 8 scales
4. *Chamaecyparis nootkatensis* (Yellow cedar, Alaska cedar)
  - Branch habit: pendent
  - Leaves: scales with free tips
  - Pollen sac: yellow
  - Cones: .50 inch; 4-6 hooked scales
5. *Chamaecyparis obtuse* (Hinoki cypress)
  - Leaves: scales blunt sprays (scallops); underside has white Xs
  - Pollen sac: orange-brown
  - Cones: .50-.75 inches; 8-12 scales
6. *Chamaecyparis pisifera* (Sawara cypress)
  - Leaves: scales sharp and pointed; underside white
  - Pollen sac: black
  - Cones: .25 inch; pea-like
7. *Chamaecyparis pisifera* ‘Filifera’
  - Leaves: long, stringy; green or gold; newer is blue
8. *Cupressocyparis leylandii* (Leylandia cypress)
  - Leaves: scales flat sprays; 1/8 inch; grey-green; pointed
  - Growth rate: fast

## *Conifer Key*

9. *Thuja* (Arborvitae)

- Leaves: scaly; 2 ranks of opposing pairs; aromatic; undersides pale green-white
- Cones: oblong; .50 inch; in clusters; hinge from one end

10. *Thuja occidentalis* (White cedar)

- Cones: 8-10 smooth scales

11. *Thuja plicata* (Western red cedar)

- Cones: 4-5 hooked scales
- 'Zebrina': gold and green banded foliage

12. *Calocedrus decurrens* (Incense cedar)

- Leaves: scales similar to *Thuja*
- Bark: similar to *Thuja*
- Cones: oblong; 1 inch; hinged from end

13. *Thujopsis dolobrata* (Cypress)

- Leaves: scales with distinctive wide white marks, shredding bark

14. *Juniperus*

- Leaves: needle-like (juvenile); scales (adult)
- Cones: fleshy berries
- J. 'Pfitzeriana' (of boulevards): flat topped with tiered foliage
- J. squamata: entirely juvenile needle-like type; no scale leaves
- J. s. 'Blue Star': silver blue needles; prostrate shrub

## *Conifer Key*

Key	Douglas fir ( <i>Pseudotsuga m.</i> )	Sitka spruce ( <i>Picea s.</i> )	W. Hemlock ( <i>Tsuga h.</i> )	Grand fir ( <i>Abies g.</i> )
Needles	Flat; 1-2 inches; round tip	On short stalks; pointed; 4-sides	Flat, somewhat 2-ranked; round tip	Very 2-ranked; notch in tip
Cones	3-4 inches; oval; brown; 3-lobed bract	3-4 inches; oval; brown; Scales have wavy edges	1 inch long; brown; hang down on branch; remain intact on ground	4-5 inch; grey-blue cylinder; pitchy; sit on branch; disintegrate when mature
Bark	Deeply fissured; pitch blisters when young	Scale-like platelets; pitch blisters when young	Rough; brown-red; no pitch	Pitch pockets; smooth; grey
Other			Tip of leader droops	Only on E. Coast; Vic-Campbell R

Key	Redcedar ( <i>Thuja p.</i> )	Yellow cedar ( <i>Chamaecyparis n</i> )	White Pine ( <i>Pinus monticola</i> )	Shore Pine ( <i>P. contorta v. cont.</i> )
Needles	Flat, smooth scales	Round, scratchy scales	Bundles of 5; blue-green; 4 inches long; slender; flexible	Bundles of 2; yellow-green; 2-3 inches long; stiff
Cones	1 inch; oval; brown; bunches	Single; .50 inch; round; green-yellow	6-10 inches long; pitchy	Tight; 1-2 inches; round; prickly
Bark	Thin, stringy; red-brown	Thin; grey-brown; papery	Smooth; white-grey; pitchy	Furrowed; red-brown; plates
Other	Red wood	High elevation species; yellow wood		

Key	Larch, Tamarack ( <i>Larix</i> )	Cedar ( <i>Cedrus Libani</i> subsp. <i>atlantica</i> )	Yew ( <i>Taxus brevifolia</i> )	Juniper ( <i>Juniperus</i> )
Needles	In clusters; light green; turns yellow in fall; DECIDUOUS	In clusters; light green; evergreen	Flat; sharp pointed; .50 inch; 2-ranked	.25 inch; narrow; spiky whorls of 3; underside white line
Cones	2-inch round; remain on branch	5-inch barrel-shaped; brown; break-up	.25-inch green-red berry	.25 inch round blue berry

Key	Giant Redwood ( <i>Sequoiadendron g.</i> )	Coastal Redwood ( <i>Sequoia s.</i> )		
Needles	.25 inch; wedge shape; snug to branch	Flat; sharp pointed; .50 inch; 2-ranked		
Fruit	1.75 inch round yellow-brown cone	1-inch yellow cone on branch tip		

Key	Douglas Maple ( <i>Acer glabrum</i> )	Vine Maple ( <i>A. circinatum</i> )	Red Alder ( <i>Alnus r.</i> )	White Birch ( <i>Betula p.</i> )
Leaves	2-3 inches; 3-5 lobes	2-6 inches wide; 7-9 lobes	Coarsely toothed; 3-5 inches; oval; remain green in fall	Finely serrated; 3-4 inches; base toothless; turn yellow in fall
Seeds	Wings in V shape	Wings in straight line	1 inch long "cone" clusters; remain on tree	1-1.5-inch catkin; shed when mature
Bark			Mottled grey-white	Thin, white lateral stripes

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