

Twig and Cone Key for Softwood Trees of the Acadian Forest (Wabanaki) Region

- 1. **Leaves not needle-like**.....2
 - 2. Small, flat, scale-like leaves, soft, yellow-green in color, 1-2 mm long; cones egg-shaped, 7-12 mm long.
.....Eastern white cedar
- 1. **Leaved needle-like**.....3
 - 3. Needles in bundles or groups.....4
 - 4. Two needles in each bundle.....5
 - 5. Needles straight, 10-16 cm long, needles will break or snap when bent; cones roundish, 4-7 cm long, cone scales thicker at tips.....Red pine
 - 5. Needles yellow-green, 2-4 cm long, divergent (split apart) and twisted; cones 3-7 cm long, serotinous, usually curved.....Jack pine
 - 4. More than two needles in each bundle.....6
 - 6. Needles in bundles of 5, 10-15 cm long, soft, blue-green; cones 8-20 cm long, cone scales broader towards tip.....Eastern white pine
 - 6. Needles 15-60 per bundle, soft, bluish-green color, deciduous; cones roundish, 10-15 mm long, attached to twig by a curved stalk (petiole).....Tamarack
 - 3. Single needles.....7
 - 7. Needles flattened (do not roll between fingers).....8
 - 8. Needles glossy green above with two white bands and three darker bands below, attached to twig by short stalk (petiole) ; cones egg-shaped, 12-20 mm longEastern hemlock
 - 8. Needles dark green above with two white lines and one dark line below. Fragrant odor when crushed; cones cylindrical, erect, 4-10 cm long, break apart when seeds are mature leaving a vertical spike.....Balsam fir
 - 7. Needles 4-sided (roll between fingers).....9
 - 9. Needles yellow-green, curved; cones are egg-shaped, measure 3-5 cm long, cone scales stiff, margin usually not serrated.....Red spruce
 - 9. Needles straight, dull greyish-green; cones 2-3 cm long, cone scales toothed or serrated and brittle.....Black spruce
 - 9. Needles are straight, stiff, pungent odor when crushed, bluish-green; cones 3-6 cm long, cone scales are pliable when squeezedWhite spruce



Balsam fir



Tamarack



Eastern hemlock



White spruce



Black spruce



Red spruce



Jack pine



White pine



Red pine



Eastern white cedar (cedar)



