

Keying out Common Alaska Pinales

Key without pictures is at the bottom of the file.

10 species.

Pinus contorta

Larix laricina

Picea glauca

Picea mariana

Abies lasiocarpa

Xanthocyparic nootkatensis

Tsuga heterophylla

Taxus brevifolia

Juniperus horizontalis

Thuja plicata

-Scales:

-Plant shrub-like, low to the ground no more than 30cm high on average, Cones are blue/berry like.

Juniperus horizontalis: BLUE fruiting bodies(not true berries) creeping juniper



-Plant treelike, adults much taller than 2m on average

-Cones general(brown woody bracts, many layers flowing down lengthways.

Thuja plicata: red cedar



-Cones distinct expanding and separating soccer ball shape, peltate when expanded.

Xanthocyparic nootkatensis: nooka cypress



-Needles:

-Flat Cross-section:

-Cones hang down:

- Cones "woody and layered":

Tsuga heterophylla: western hemlock, Flat needles, cones hang down.



- Seed surrounded in fleshy Aril/berry:

Taxus brevifolia: Western yew, red fleshy “berry” covering seed/cone, flat needles.



-Cones aim skyward:

Abies lasiocarpa: subalpine fir, FLAT needles, upward cones



-Round/curves cross-section:

-Needles in fascicles/groups of 2 (fascicles can be seen on branches that have lose all their needles)

Pinus Contorta: Lodgepole pine needles in fascicles



-Needles not in fascicles/ singular

-Needles lost/brown in winter and soft/flexible in summer

Larix laricina: loses needles in winter



-Needles kept year round/hard and sharp

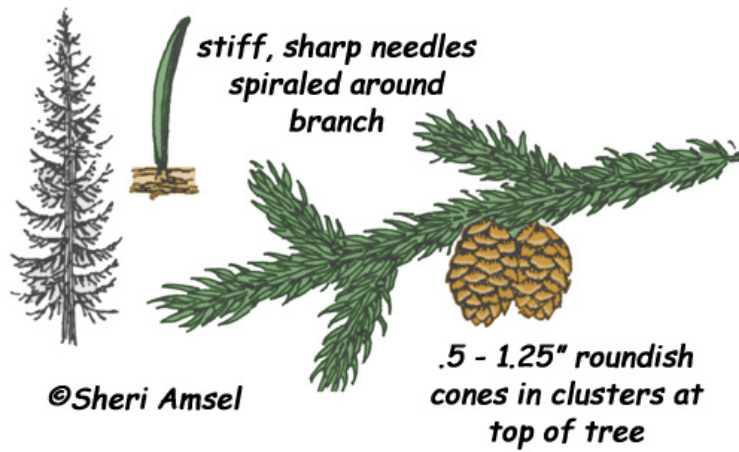
-Stem covered in small hairs

Picea mariana: Black spruce, tiny hairs .5-1" cones

Black Spruce

Picea mariana

Up to 65' tall



-Stem glabrous/very clean and smooth

Picea glauca: White spruce, no hairs 1-2" cones



-Scales:

- Plant shrub-like, low to the ground averaging no more than 30cm high on average, Cones are blue/berry like.
Juniperus horizontalis: BLUE "Fleshy cones with a waxy covering creeping juniper"
- Plant treelike, adults much taller than 2m on average
 - Cones general looking (a backup or rewording of this one is likely needed)
Thuja plicata: red cedar
 - Cones distinct expanding and separating soccer ball shape "Peltate"
Xanthocyparic nootkatensis: nooka cypress

-Needles:

- Flat Cross-section:
 - Cones hang down(possible backups for the cones styles is one of my more major concerns):
 - Cones "regular":
Tsuga heterophylla: western hemlock, Flat needles, cones hang down.
 - Seed surrounded in fleshy Aril/berry:
Taxus brevifolia: Western yew, red fleshy "berry" covering seed/cone, flat needles.
 - Cones aim skyward:
Abies lasiocarpa: subalpine fir, FLAT needles, upward cones
- Round/curves cross-section:
 - Needles in fascicles/pairs: (fascicles can be seen on branches that have lost all their needles)
Pinus Contorta: Lodgepole pine, needles in fascicles
 - Needles not in fascicles/ singular
 - Needles lost/brown in winter and soft/flexible in summer
Larix laricina: loses needles in winter
 - Needles kept year round/hard and sharp
 - Stem covered in small hairs
Picea mariana: Black spruce, tiny hairs ~.5-1" cones
 - Stem glabrous/very clean and smooth
Picea glauca: White spruce, no hairs ~1-2" cones



Elizabeth Morales Peltate!

<http://cf.ydcn.net/1.0.1.30/images/main/peltate.jpg>

<http://www.yourdictionary.com/peltate>