

KEY TO NATIVE CONIFERS

1. a. Leaves are needle-like: cones are woody or papery and brown in color.2
b. Leaves have overlapping scales, cones are berry-like and blue in color.....9

2. a. Needles arise in bundles or packets of 2,3, or 5: cones scales are woody.....3
b. Needles do NOT arise in bundles or packets but are singular: cone scales are thin and papery.....5

3. a. Needles arise in bundles of 5: branches are exceptionally flexible, cones have even diamond shaped scales.....**Limber Pine**
b. Needles arise in bundles of 3 and are unusually long: cones occur in groups of three with a center stamen.....**Ponderosa Pine**
c. Needles arise in bundles of 2: cones are small4

4. a. Needles are twisted in appearance: cones are on underside of branch: trunk grows straight and tall.....**Lodgepole Pine**
b. Needles usually less than 2 inches long: cones are short with large edible seeds: trunk is short and tree is bushy in appearance.....**Pinyon Pine**

5. a. Needles are flat and blunt: not sharp to touch.....6
b. Needles are NOT flat, but are square in cross section: sharp to touch.....8

6. a. Needles point outward from twig: cones with leafy bract extending from the cone scales, trees are tall and straight.....**Douglas Fir**
b. Needles arise from twig on all sides but bend upward: cones without leafy bracts extending from cone scales.....7

7. a. Needles usually less than 1 inch in length: cones cluster on bottom of branch.....**Subalpine Fir**
b. Needles have whitish tinge; cone scales look like stacks or layers.....**White Fir**

8. a. Bark is gray in color: cones have rounded cone scales: mature trees are rounded in shape.....**Englemann Spruce**
b. Young twigs and branches are stiff, growing outward in flat layers: cones have flattened cone scales: trees are bushy and have a blue shade.....**Blue Spruce**

9. a. Leaves have a white color on tips: mature tree grows as a low lying bush.....**Common Juniper**
b. Leaves are have small scales.....10

10. a. Berry-like cones are small, rarely to ¼ inch in diameter: trunk usually forked and bark is papery and sheds off in sheets.....**Utah Juniper**
b. Scaly leaves are smooth: trunk usually with a central stem.....**Rocky Mountain Juniper**