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NORTH IDAHO EVERGREENS

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- [Lodgepole Pine](#)
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This [Western Red Cedar](#) is in the Roosevelt Grove of Ancient Cedars, in the Priest Lake Ranger District.

NORTH IDAHO BROADLEAF TREES

- [Black Cottonwood](#)
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- [Western Paper Birch](#)

Last updated: 08/19/99

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[LIST](#)**WESTERN RED CEDAR**

(Thuja plicata)

Size at 250 years: 100-160 feet tall, 2-8 feet in diameter

Life Span: 1,000+ years

Leaves: Small, overlapping, scale-like leaves that form sprays, in opposite pattern. shiny-dark green in color. 1/16 to 1/8" long.

Cones: 3/4" long. Brown.

Bark: Cinnamon-red on young stems, gray on old trunks. Fibrous and shredding.

Where to find: Moist hillsides beside streams. Often found with [Western Hemlock](#). Can be found in the IPNF at Roosevelt Grove, Priest Lake RD and Settlers Grove, CDA River Valley RD.

Things to know:

Wood is very resistant to rot. The chief wood used for roofing shingles. For paneling, utility poles. Also valuable for outdoor construction and boat building. Indians used for totem poles and canoes. Its bark was woven into baskets, nets, and fabric for clothing. Its a member of the cypress family, so not a true cedar.

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[LIST](#)**DOUGLAS-FIR (aka Red Fir)**

(*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)

Size at 120 years: 110-170 feet tall, 3-4 feet in diameter

Life Span: 300 years

Needles: 3/4 to 1 1/4" long. Flattened all around the twig. Soft to the touch.

Cones: Cylindrical cones. 2-3" long with 3 pointed bract protruding from scales.

Bark: Dark gray brown. Corky looking, deeply furrowed in mature trees. Inside furrows often rust red.

Where to find: Rocky soils at middle elevations across the forest, occurs mostly in mixed forests.

Things to know:

One of the world's most important timber species, used for veneer for plywood, and as mine timbers because of their strength. Grouse, deer, and elk like to eat the foliage.

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ENGLEMANN SPRUCE

(*Picea engelmannii*)

Size at 200 years: 80-150 feet tall, 1 1/2-2 1/2 feet in diameter

Life Span: 350 years

Needles: 5/8 to 1" long. Stiff and sharp. Disagreeable odor when crushed

Cones: 2" long with thin, papery scales

Bark: Gray or purplish-brown, very thin and loosely attached scales

Where to find: Found in most cool air drainages, and at higher altitudes with [Subalpine fir](#).

Things to know:
Resonant qualities make the wood valuable for piano sounding boards and violins.

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GRAND FIR (aka White Fir)

(Abies grandis)

Size at 120 years: 110-160 feet tall, 1 1/2 to 3 1/2 feet in diameter

Life Span: 250 years

Needles: Flat, in 2 rows, 1-2" long, dark green and shiny, silvery white beneath

Cones: Upright, 2-4" long, green, maturing to brown

Bark: Brown, smooth, with resin blisters, becoming deeply furrowed with age

Where to find: Valleys and moist mountain slopes, often occurring in mixed forests.

Things to know:

Woodsmen place great faith in the healing properties of the fragrant, transparent gum pinched from resin blisters found on the smooth barked, young trees.

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[LIST](#)**LOGEPOLE PINE**

(*Pinus contorta*)

Size at 100 years: 70-110 feet tall, 1-2 feet in diameter

Life Span: 150 years

Needles: 1-3" long, in bundles of 2

Cones: 3/4 to 2" long, eggshaped with small prickle on each scale

Bark: Black to reddish brown, thin and scaly

Where to find: Very common across the forest. Middle elevations on well drained soils, often in pure stands

Things to know:

The lodgepole pine occurs in areas where forest fires are common. The cones will stay on the trees tightly closed until the heat of a fire causes the cones to open and drop seed to begin a new forest. Native populations prized the lodgepole for making teepee supports and travois poles.

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[LIST](#)**MOUNTAIN HEMLOCK**

(*Tsuga mertensiana*)

Size at 200 years: 50-100 feet tall, 2-4 feet in diameter

Life Span: 250 years

Needles: Short stalked, half-rounded or angled, 1/4 to 1" long, blue-green. Usually crowded or whorled at end of twig and curved upwards.

Cones: 1-2 1/2" long, usually purplish or green, turning brown.

Bark: Reddish-brown, deeply furrowed into narrow ridges. Bark has a tendency to twist around the bole.

Where to find: Higher elevations on moist soils. May occur as a shrub at timberline.

Things to know:

A characteristic species of high mountains. Can be either a large tree at higher elevations or a shrub at timberline. Provides cover, nesting sites, and food for birds and mountain goats. Found on the St. Joe and Cd'A Forests, but is absent on most of the Kaniksu Forest.

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[LIST](#)**PACIFIC YEW**

(*Taxus brevifolia*)

Size at 150 years: 15-30 feet tall, 6" to 1 foot in diameter

Life Span: 300 years

Needles: 1/2 to 3/4 inches long, in two rows along branch flattened, short points at both ends, soft and flexible deep yellow-green above light green with two whitish bands beneath.

Fruit: Elliptical seeds 1/4" long, stalkless, blunt pointed, enclosed in a scarlet cup.

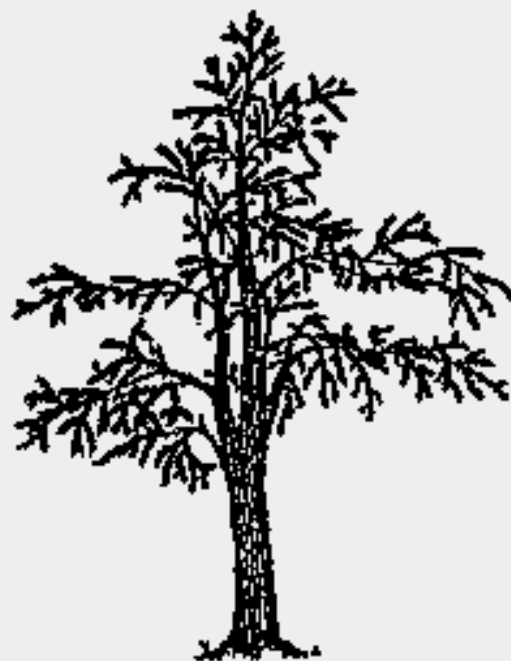
Bark: Purplish-brown, very thin with red-brown papery scales.

Where to find: Moist soils of stream banks and canyons. Understory of [cedar/hemlock](#) forests. Varies from a many stemmed shrub to a small irregular shaped tree

Things to know:

Yew was traditionally used for archery bows and canoe paddles. In 1991, researchers discovered that a drug called taxol could be extracted from the bark. Taxol has found to be effective in controlling ovarian and other types of cancer. Trees are either female (with the seed) or male, containing a pollen bud.

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[LIST](#)**PONDEROSA PINE (aka Yellow Pine)**

(*Pinus ponderosa*)

Size at 150 years: 120-180 feet tall, 2 1/2 to 4 feet in diameter

Life Span: 300 years

Needles: 5-10" long, in bundles of 3, sometimes 2 on the same twig

Cones: 4-6" long. Conical or egg shaped, with outward pointed prickles

Bark: Black on young trees, yellow-brown on large scaly plates on mature trees

Where to find: Lower elevations and dry southern slopes across the forest.

Things to know:

The lumber of the ponderosa pine is valuable, often being used for window frames & panel doors. Quail & nutcrackers consume the seeds. Squirrels and chipmunks often store the seeds in caches, thus aiding their dispersal. Loggers call this yellow pine or bull pine.

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[LIST](#)**SUBALPINE FIR**

(*Abies lasiocarpa*)

Size at 200 years: 60-120 feet tall, 1-2 feet in diameter

Life Span: 200 years

Needles: Flat, 1-1 3/4" long, spread almost at right "brushed up" angles. Blue-green in color.

Cones: Upright, 2 1/4-4" long, purple

Bark: Grey, smooth, with resin blisters, becoming cracked with age

Where to find: Subalpine zone of high mountains. May occur as a shrub near timberline.

Things to know:

When weighted to the ground with snow, the lowest branches take root, forming new shoots. The bark is winter browse for deer, elk, and moose. Leaves are eaten by grouse and seeds by songbirds and mammals.

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[LIST](#)**WESTERN HEMLOCK**

(*Tsuga heterophylla*)

Size at 150 years: 120-180 feet tall, 3-4 feet in diameter

Life Span: 400 years

Needles: 1/4 to 3/4" long. Flat, flexible, 2-ranked, and rounded at tip. Distinctly stalked.

Cones: Egg-shaped, light brown, 3/4 to 1" long, thin scales, wavy edges, located on the tips of branchlets

Bark: Russet-brown. In mature trees about 1 1/2" thick, hard, deeply furrowed

Where to find: Moist slopes and flat areas

Things to know:

This tree is found on moister sites, often along streams. It is commonly used as pulpwood. It is a prized ornamental in Great Britain. It can grow and reproduce in the dense shade of overstory trees.

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WESTERN LARCH (aka Tamarack)

(*Larix occidentalis*)

Size at 150 years: 100-160 feet tall, 1 1/2 to 3 feet in diameter

Life Span: 500+ years

Needles: Crowded deciduous in a cluster of 14-30, 1/2" long on spur twigs. Turn brilliant gold in the fall, then drop to the ground.

Cones: 1 to 1 1/2" long with bract protruding from each cone scale.

Bark: Reddish-brown. Flat plates on mature trees.

Where to find: Mountain slopes and valleys on gravelly, sandy or loamy soils. Often found in mixed forests.

Things to know:

Often follows or survives fires. Grouse eat buds and leaves. Valuable wood for construction, paneling, flooring, and utility poles. Highly sought as hot, clean burning firewood. Changes color with season.

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WESTERN WHITE PINE

(*Pinus monticola*)

Size at 150 years: 120-180 feet tall, 2.5 to 3.5 feet in diameter

Life Span: 350 years

Needles: 2-4" long, in bundles of 5

Cones: 6-12" long, curved when dry

Bark: Dark grey, broken into small, square blocks on mature trees

Where to find: At low and middle elevations across the IPNF. Often occurs in mixed forests, and occasionally in almost pure stands.

Things to know:

An important timber tree - uniform wood without knots, twisted grain, or discoloration. This tree is seriously threatened by a fungus called white pine blister rust. We are now breeding seedlings able to resist the disease. State tree of Idaho.

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[LIST](#)**WHITEBARK PINE**

(*Pinus albicaulis*)

Size at 250 years: 30-60 feet tall, 1-2 feet in diameter

Life Span: 450 years

Needles: 1 1/2 to 2 3/4 inches long, in bundles of 5. Clustered toward the ends of the branches.

Cones: About 2 1/2" long, eggshaped, purplish-brown

Bark: Young trees are light brownish gray to cream white, becoming dark brown at maturity

Where to find: High elevations about 5,000 feet. May occur as a shrub near timberline.

Things to know:

The seeds of the whitebark pine are a favorite food of the grizzly bear. A bird called the Clarks Nutcracker also eats the seeds & is responsible for "planting" many of the seeds, since the cone will not open naturally until it decays.

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[LIST](#)**BLACK COTTONWOOD**

(*Populus trichocarpa*)

Size at 120 years: 60-120 feet tall, 1-3 feet in diameter

Life Span: 120 years

Leaves: 3-6" long, egg-shaped, tapering to a point, edges notched, dark green.

Fruit: 1/3-1/2" long, 3 valved, pubescent

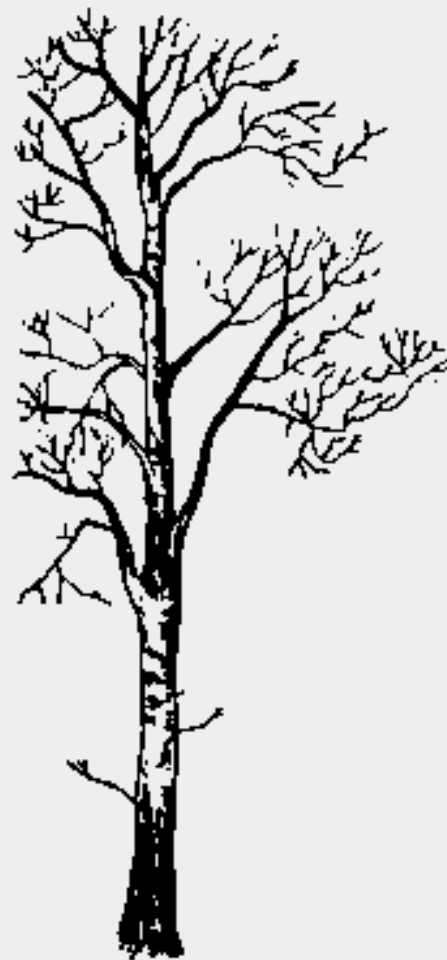
Bark: Tawny yellow to gray and smooth on young trees, turning dark gray and deeply furrowed in older trees.

Where to find: Moist to wet soils of valleys, mainly on streambanks and flood plains.

Things to know:

The tallest native western hardwood. The wood is used for boxes and crates. The hard, unripe seeds have been adapted for pea-shooter ammunition. The released seeds form the familiar "summer snow," carried on the wind by their cottony filaments.

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[LIST](#)**QUAKING ASPEN**

(Populus tremuloides)

Size at 100 years: 50-60 feet tall, 1-1 1/2 feet in diameter

Life Span: 120 years

Leaves: 1 1/2-3" in diameter, broadly egg-shaped, edge finely sawtoothed. Upper surface shiny green, dull green beneath turns brilliant gold in fall.

Fruit: About 1/4" long, narrowly conical, curved

Bark: Smooth, whitish and thin to cream-colored becoming dark brown or gray with age.

Where to find: Sandy or gravelly slopes at mid to low elevations, often found in pure stands sharing a single root system.

Things to know:

Quaking aspen got its name from the leaves, which tremble in the slightest breeze because of their flat leaf stem. A "pioneer" tree after fires and in abandoned fields, it is short lived and often replaced by conifers. Used for matches, boxes, and particle board.

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WESTERN PAPER BIRCH

(*Betula papyrifera* var. *occidentalis*)

Size at 60 years: 50-70 feet tall, 1-2 feet in diameter

Life Span: 80+ years

Leaves: 2-3" long, egg-shaped, edges coarsely notched, surface dull, dark green.

Fruit: Cylindrical, stalked strobile, 1-1 1/2" long.

Bark: Dark brown at first, turning chalky to creamy white. Separates into thin papery strips.

Where to find: Moist upland soils and cutover lands. Often in nearly pure stands.

Things to know:

Used for ice-cream sticks, toothpicks, and toys. Indians made canoes by stretching strips of bark over [cedar](#) frames.

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WESTERN RED CEDAR TREE



Photo by Rick Wallace

WESTERN RED CEDAR LEAVES



Photo by Rick Wallace

WESTERN RED CEDAR BARK



Photo by Rick Wallace

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DOUGLAS-FIR TREE



Photo by Rick Wallace

DOUGLAS-FIR NEEDLES



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ENGLEMAN SPRUCE TREE



Photo by Rick Wallace

ENGLEMAN SPRUCE BARK



Photo by Rick Wallace

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GRAND FIR NEEDLES



Photo by Rick Wallace

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PONDEROSA PINE TREE



Photo by Rick Wallace

PONDEROSA PINE NEEDLES AND CONE



Photo by Rick Wallace

PONDEROSA PINE BARK



Photo by Rick Wallace

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SUBALPINE FIR TREE



Photo by Rick Wallace

SUBALPINE FIR NEEDLES



Photo by Rick Wallace

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WESTERN HEMLOCK TREE



Photo by Rick Wallace

WESTERN HEMLOCK NEEDLES AND CONES



Photo by Rick Wallace

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WESTERN LARCH TREE



Photo by Rick Wallace

WESTERN LARCH NEEDLES



Photo by Rick Wallace

WESTERN LARCH BARK



Photo by Rick Wallace

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BLACK COTTONWOOD TREE



Photo by Rick Wallace

BLACK COTTONWOOD LEAVES



Photo by Rick Wallace

BLACK COTTONWOOD BARK



Photo by Rick Wallace

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QUAKING ASPEN LEAVES



Photo by Rick Wallace

QUAKING ASPEN BARK



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WESTERN PAPER BIRCH TREE

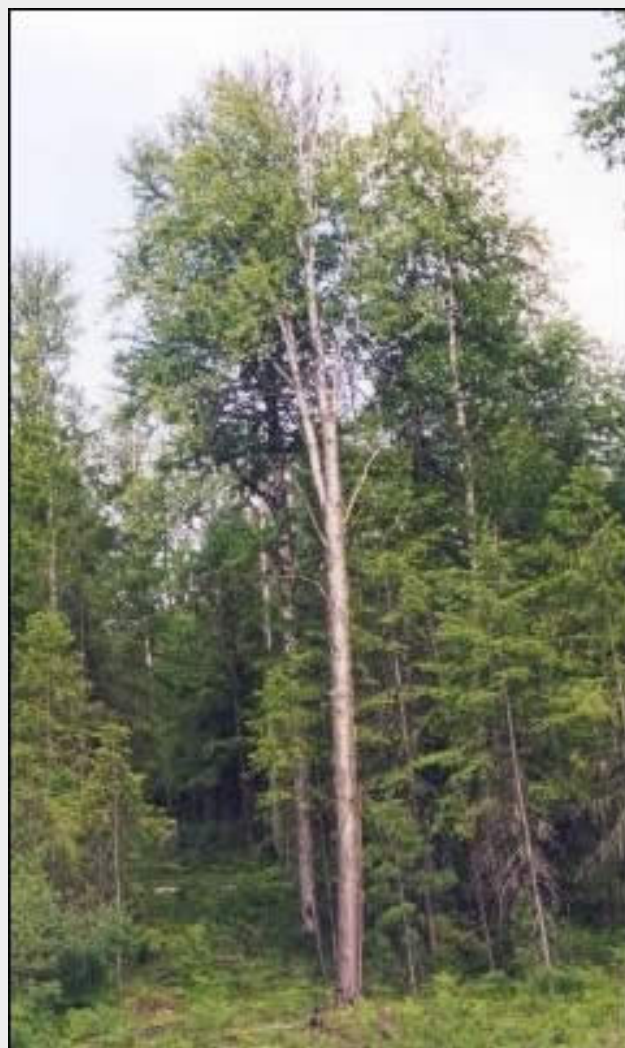


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WESTERN PAPER BIRCH LEAVES

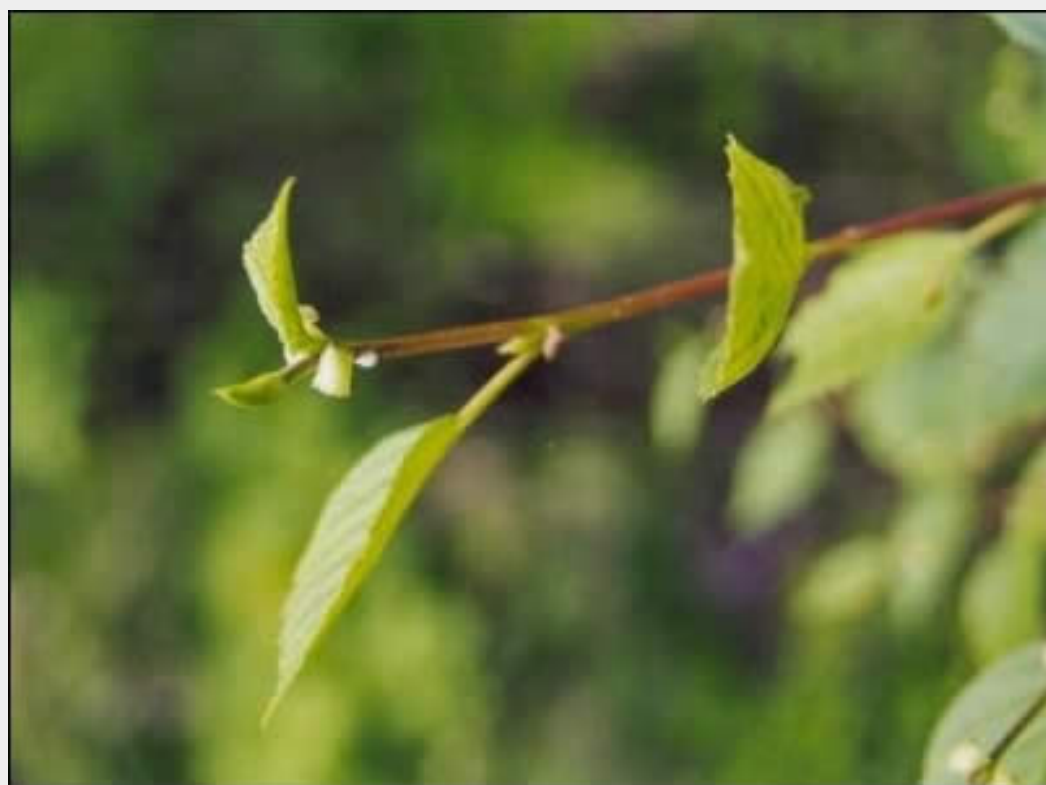


Photo by Rick Wallace

WESTERN PAPER BIRCH BARK



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