

TREES *of* BC

Ponderosa pine

(*Pinus ponderosa*)



Bark

Blackish, rough, and scaly on young trees; on mature trees the bark is very thick (up to 10 centimetres), bright orangey-brown, and deeply grooved into flat, flaky plates.

Leaves

Needles occur in bunches of three (occasionally both twos and threes), 12 to 28 centimetres long, slender, with sharp points and sharply toothed edges.

Cones

Seed cones are narrowly oval when closed, 7 to 14 centimetres long, with no stalk. The scales get thicker towards the tip and have a sharp, rigid prickle. Seeds have a 2.5 centimetre wing.

Habitat

At mid elevations, Ponderosa pine occurs on a variety of soils, from extremely dry to well-drained, relatively deep, moist soils. It grows in pure, open, park-like groups at lower elevations. At higher elevations, it grows with Interior Douglas-fir. Ponderosa pine has a long, deep root that enables it to access the deeper, moister soil. The long root also makes it quite wind-firm. These trees can live as long as 400 to 500 years.

Whitebark pine

(*Pinus albicaulis*)



Bark

Thin, smooth, and chalky-white on young stems; as the tree gets older, the bark becomes thicker and forms narrow, brown, scaly plates.

Leaves

Needles occur in bunches of five, ranging from 3 to 9 centimetres long; they are stiff, slightly curved, usually bluish-green, and tend to be clumped towards the ends of branches.

Cones

Seed cones are egg-shaped to almost round, 3 to 8 centimetres long, and grow at right angles to the branch; the scales grow in roughly 5 spiral rows. The cones are permanently closed and the seeds are released when the cones decay on the ground. Seeds are about a centimetre long and wingless.

Habitat

Whitebark pine prefers to grow on dry to moderately moist sites in subalpine areas. The whitebark pine has a special relationship with the Clark's nutcracker. The bird uses its slender, long, curved beak to break open the cones and remove the seeds. The nutcracker then buries the seeds for winter meals. If the nutcracker forgets where it buries the seeds they are in an ideal environment for germination and sprouting.

Limber pine

(*Pinus flexilis*)



Bark

On young trees, the bark is silvery-grey; as the tree matures, the bark becomes thicker, very rough, and nearly black, with wide scaly plates.

Leaves

Needles occur in bunches of five, 3 to 9 centimetres long; bluish-green and clustered at the ends of twigs.

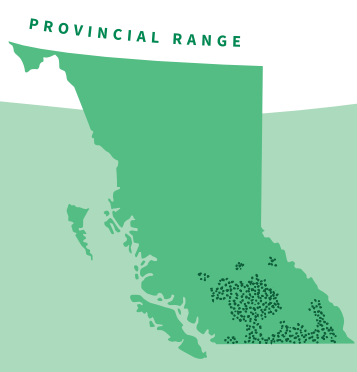
Cones

Seed cones are large and cylindrical, 8 to 20 centimetres long; they are yellowish-brown, and the scales are thickened and sticky towards the tip. The seeds are nut-like and almost wingless.

Habitat

Limber pine occurs on dry to moderately moist sites in subalpine environments. It occurs as a single tree or in widely spaced groups of trees on rocky terrain, where its roots penetrate the spaces between rocks.

50 m



20 m



10 m

