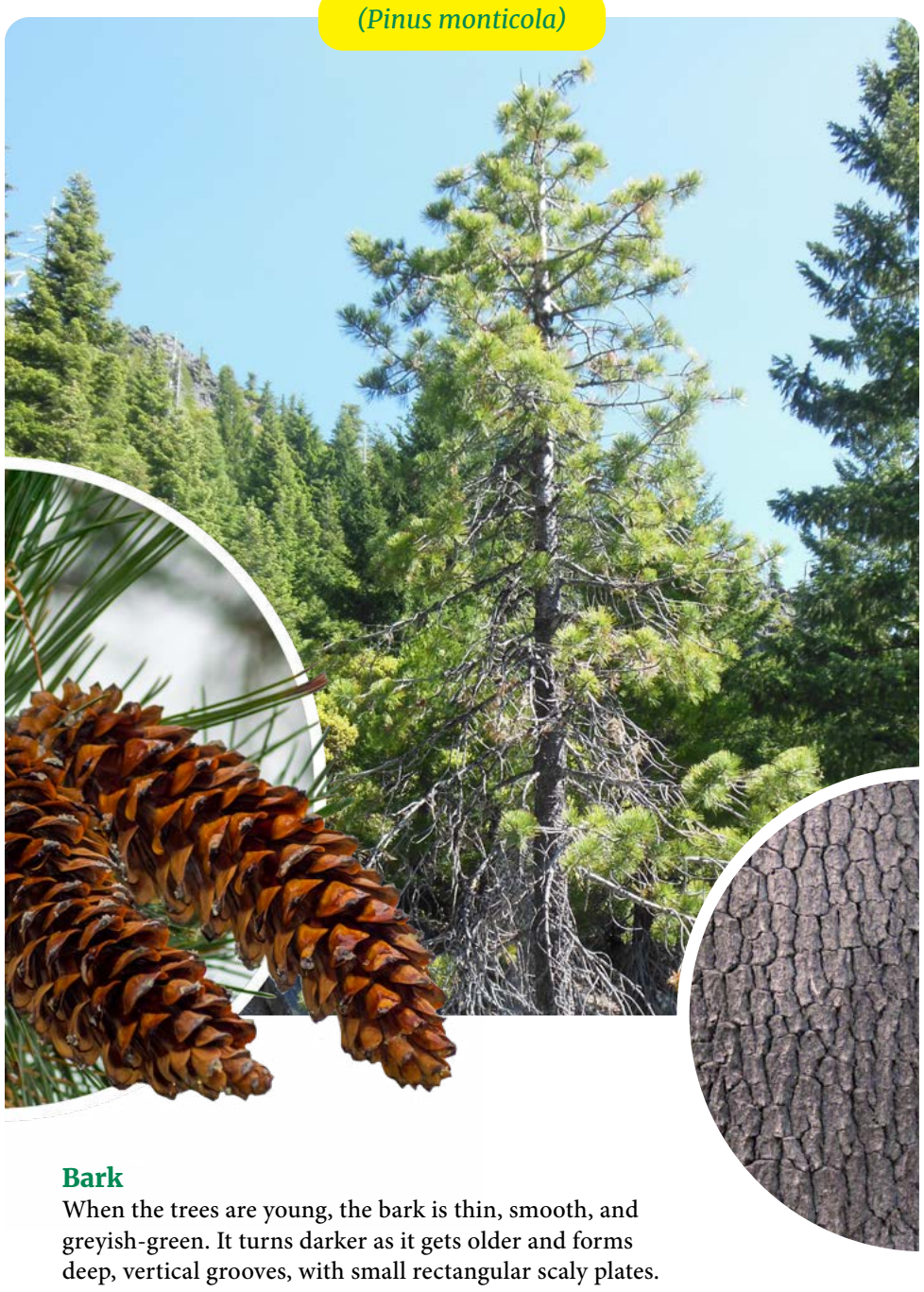
TREES *of* BC

Western white pine

(Pinus monticola)

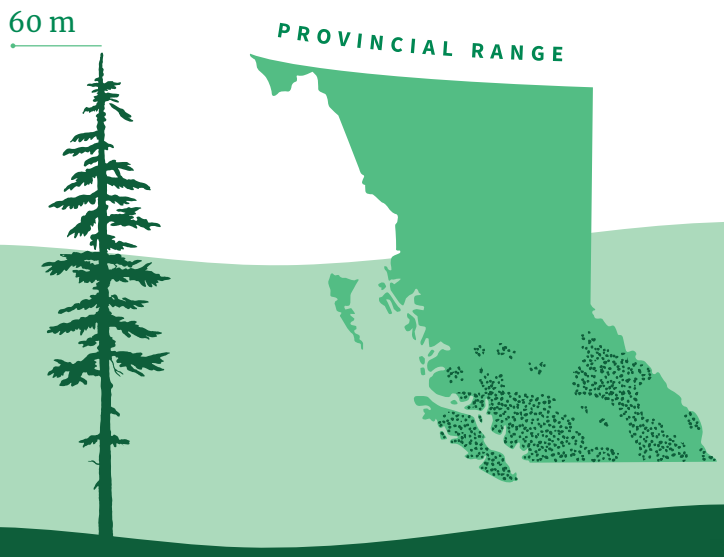


Bark
When the trees are young, the bark is thin, smooth, and greyish-green. It turns darker as it gets older and forms deep, vertical grooves, with small rectangular scaly plates.

Leaves
Needles occur in bunches of five, about 5 to 10 centimetres long. Slender, straight, and soft to touch, they are bluish-green in colour with a whitish tinge, and the edges are very finely toothed.

Cones
Seed cones are cylindrical when closed, about 10 to 25 centimetres long, and they occur on a 2 centimetre stalk; the scales are often bent backwards when dry. The seeds have wings about 3 centimetres long.

Habitat
On the coast, Western white pine is found from sea level to high elevations in a variety of sites, ranging from peat bogs to dry, sandy, or rocky soil. It does best on sites that are rich in nutrients and well drained, in moist valleys and on gentle northern slopes.



Lodgepole pine

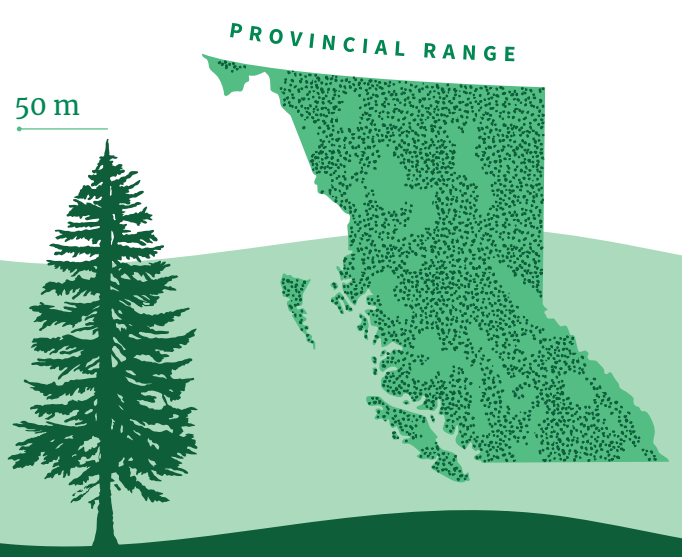
(Pinus contorta)

Bark
The bark is thin, orangey-brown to grey, and finely scaled.

Leaves
Needles occur in bunches of two and are often twisted in a spiral with sharp points; usually dark green.

Cones
Seed cones vary in shape from short and cylindrical to egg-shaped; 2 to 4 centimetres long without stalks. The seed scales have sharp prickles at their tips.

Habitat
Lodgepole pine is a highly adaptable tree that can grow in all sorts of environments, from water-logged bogs to dry sandy soils. It is one of the first trees to invade after a wildfire. Its cones are protected by a seal of pitch that requires fire or heat to release the seeds. This allows seeds to stay on the tree or on the ground for many years until disturbance provides suitable growing conditions. Lodgepole pine can occur as the only tree in dense, very slow-growing groups of trees (so-called "dog-hair" stands).



Produced by the **BC National Forest Week Coalition**

BC NATIONAL FOREST WEEK

For more information, please visit: **bcnfw.ca**