

*Frederick Welch*

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**OUR NATIVE CONIFERS**

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY XMAS TREES

By

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EXTENSION FORESTOR

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CONIFERS, EVERGREENS

Common Name	Scientific Name	Height	Leaves	Cones or Fruit	Appearance	Nature of Wood	Wood Uses	Remarks
White Pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>	80-125'	5" cluster 3-5" long	4-6" long, wings longer than seed, ripen about middle of September.	Straight, regular pyramidal shape, soft gray-green foliage, deeply furrowed bark.	Light, soft light brown in color.	Construction purposes, box boards, matches.	Fairly rapid grower, valuable, desirable tree for forest planting, beautification.
Norway Pine	<i>Pinus resinosa</i>	80-100'	2" cluster 5-6" long	2-2½" long, ripen about middle of September, wings longer than seed.	Straight, free of branches, reddish bark in flakes.	Medium heavy, hard, pale red.	General construction purposes.	Fairly free from insect attack; taking the place of white pine in planting of forest lands, rate of growth about same as <u>white pine</u> .
Jack Pine	<i>Pinus divaricata</i>	35-85'	¾-1½" long, 2" cluster	1½-2" long, wing longer than seed, cones persist on tree for long time.	Crown of spreading branches, scant open foliage, dead branches hang on.	Coarse grained, pale brown.	Lath, box material, ties, fuel wood, rough lumber.	Bears cones at early age, often seven years of age, cones persist on tree long time, least valuable of our pines.
White Spruce	<i>Picea glauca</i>	60-100'	½-¾" long, pale bluish when young, blue-green when mature, sharp pointed.	About 2" long, slender cone scales, rounded at ends and end soft, thin, cones fall off during autumn.	Crown irregular, open pyramidal, long stout branches, curving upward, mature bark gray tinged with brown, scaly.	Light, soft, strong, light yellow or white in color.	Demand for paper pulp, lumber, aeroplane construction, canoe paddles, sounding boards for musical instruments.	Used extensively for ornamental planting, wind-breaks, and shelter belts, used for Xmas trees.
Black Spruce	<i>Picea marina</i>	50-65'	¼-½" long, leaves bluish-green, short, pointed, four sided, scattered	½-1¼" long, purplish in color, often remain on tree many years.	Crown narrow, pyramidal, irregular, open; branches short, curve upward, mature bark grayish-	Light yellow to white in color, medium strong.	Used for paper pulp.	Used extensively for Xmas tree, not recommended for ornamental planting, slow grower and short lived

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Common Name	Scientific Name	Height	Leaves	Cones or Fruit	Appearance	Nature of Wood	Wood Uses	Remarks
Black Spruce (cort.)			thickly over branch.		brown, thin, flaky.			on high land, is a low land swamp tree, spruce gum product of this tree, valued by children and grown-ups.
Balsam Fir	Abies balsamea	40-80'	$\frac{1}{2}$ -1" long, needle like, flat point rounded, dark green about silvery white beneath arranged on twig in 2 ranks, leaves fragrant.	2-3" long, stand upright on branches, purple, oblong, cone scales fall with seed leaving central spike like axis standing upright.	Spire like under forest conditions, in the open, crown pyramidal open, broad base, slender elongated horizontal branches occurring in whorls, bark on young growth, smooth with resin blisters, old bark reddish brown, scaly.	Light, soft, not strong, coarse grained.	Used only slightly for construction and paper pulp.	Occasionally used ornamentally, prefers cool, damp, shaded situations
Tamarack	Larix laricina	30-70'	Leaves flat, soft, 1" long, borne bunch like clusters.	Small, not over $\frac{3}{4}$ " long, nearly spherical.	Crown in young trees, narrow, pyramidal in old trees, forms broad open head, branches slender mature bark thin separating into reddish brown scales.	Light yellowish brown, heavy hard, durable in contact with soil.	Posts, poles, ties, well cribbing, lumber, fuel, craft paper.	Makes good growth on highland. Sheds its leaves each autumn. Prey of larch saw fly not restricted to moist places as often thought.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Height	Leaves	Cones or Fruit	Appearance	Nature of Wood	Wood Uses	Remarks
White Cedar (Arbovitae)	Thuja Occidentalis	Up to 70'	Scale like 1/8" or less long arranged to make small branches flat pleasant, aromatic odor.	Small, yellowish-brown, oblong with 6-12 scales singly or large clusters on end of branch.	Crown dense pyramidal, slender, short horizontal branches, trunk often twisted, tapers fast, bark gray to reddish brown, separating in long vertical narrow shreddy strips.	Light, soft, brittle, durable, fragrant.	Telephone poles, ties, fence posts, canoes, shingles.	Used for ornamental plantings, usually grows dense in swampy low places; also found on hard dry stony ground singly or in clumps, many horticultural forms of this tree. Used often in hedge planting.
Red Cedar or Juniper	Juniperus Virginiana	25-30'	Two kind of leaves, common kind dark green minute, scale like, hugging the stem in four ranks so stem appears sq. other leaves deep shade or awl shape, sharp pointed, spreading, white on under side.	Berry like 1/4" in diam. blue with white bloom, seeds in closed in sweet flesh.	In good situations, straight trunk, on poor rocky places, trunk much divided, bark thin, reddish brown, peels off in long vertical shreds, trunk often grooved.	Soft, strong, even texture, durable, aromatic.	Pencils, cedar chests, posts, cabinets.	Used for ornamental planting, this tree is host of apple rust, should not be planted in regions devoted to apple production.

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