**EVERGREEN CONIFER TREES**

**A SIMPLE BOTANICAL KEY FOR THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST**

### JUNIPER
- Needles in clusters
- Leaves like needles
- Mature cones are like berries

### PONDEROSA PINE
- Needles in bundles of 3 and 5-8 inches long
- Cones less than 5 inches long
- Older bark is orange and looks like puzzle pieces

### SHORE PINE OR LODGEPOLE PINE
- Needles in bundles of 2 and about 2 inches long
- Cones are about 2 inches long and prickly

### WESTERN WHITE PINE
- Needles in bundles of 5 and about 4 inches long
- Needles are whisk-thin blue-green and flexible
- Cones 6–11 inches long

### INCENSE CEDAR
- Cones shaped like a bird's foot with 3 lobes
- Branches do not lay flat

### PORT ORFORD CEDAR
- Scales tiny with a grey "x" on the underside
- Mature cones woody and round
- Branch tips stay close to twig

### WESTERN HEMLOCK
- Needles are blunt and different lengths
- Cones are small
- Top of the tree ("the lead") is droopy

### DOUGLAS FIR
- Needles all same length like a bottle brush, not sharp to touch
- Cones have a 3-pronged bract that looks like a mouse's hind feet and tail
- Groovy bark is grey to cinnamon brown

### GRAND FIR
- Needles different lengths and grow horizontally (in a flat arrangement)
- Crushed needles smell like grapefruit
- Cones about 4 inches and green to reddish with smooth scales

### PACIFIC YEW
- Note: the entire tree is toxic!
- Cones red and berry-like
- Needles grow horizontally, are pointed at the tip and soft to touch
- Twigs from last year are green

### WESTERN RED CEDAR
- Cones shaped like a rose bud
- Branches lay generally flat
- Bark grey to reddish brown, soft and fibrous

### YELLOW CEDAR
- Leaf tips look like crab claws where pollen cones fall off
- Mature cones woody and round
- Branch tips flare out from twig
- Bark whitish-grey, soft and fibrous

### True Firs: cones point upward, and young bark has blisters

### Starter Here: CONIFERS

- Leaves like scales
- Mature cones are like wood

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**Follow the lines and choose one direction to go based on each characteristic.**

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