



Trees of Maine Identification Cards



Maine TREE Foundation
TIMBER RESEARCH & ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Use this tree identification packet to help you identify tree species of Maine found in your FERN plot or forest.

Each card focuses on one species and includes pictures of key details such as leaves or needles, bark, buds, cones, and seeds. These images help you compare what you see on a tree in the field.

The cards also include brief descriptions of key characteristics such as leaf shape, bark texture, and how the tree grows. This information helps confirm the species.

The Maine tree identification packet also contains additional information about common trees in the area, including species names, identifying features, and images.

Together, this packet will help you accurately identify trees while collecting data or simply enjoying the forest.

This is the first draft of a cover page, front and back, for the third draft of the trees of Maine identification cards. The cover is currently FERN program-focused and is a work-in-progress, featuring different tree species details to add color and texture.

The back of the cover is a description of how to use these identification cards, and explains some details that will be featured for each species.

Balsam Fir

Abies balsamea

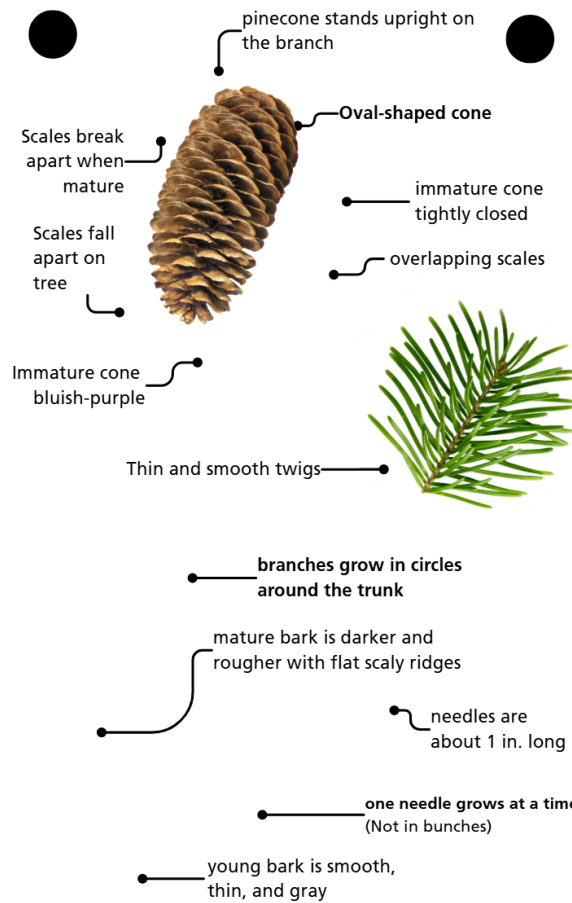
Site Conditions

- **Sunlight:** They grow best with partial to full sunlight and are shade-tolerant.
- **Soil Type:** They prefer cool, moist soil, often found near sandy or leaf litter grounds.
- **Drainage:** They grow best near bogs, stream edges, preferably where water does not remain stagnant for long periods.

Looks Like	Similarities	Differences
Eastern Hemlock	Both have short needles and small cones	Hemlock needles are flat and grow in two rows Hemlock cones hang down
Spruce Trees	Both trees are cone-shaped and have short needles	Spruce needles are sharp to the touch Spruce cones hang down
Fraser Fir	Both have flat, soft needles	Fraser needles have silvery stripes underneath Fraser cones are more round

Did You Know?

Balsam firs have bubbles of sticky sap on their bark. Long ago, people used this sap as a natural glue and for medicine.



This is the first example of a specific species identification card. It describes a Balsam fir's ideal site conditions, species it can be confused with, and a fun fact. The second identification page will feature cutouts of specific details of that tree with brief descriptions of identifying features.