

Key to the Gymnosperms (Conifers)

1a. Plants with evergreen leaves, these in clusters of 2-5 or small, triangular and oppositely arranged on a flattened branch; female cones large (5-15 cm long) and woody or small (5-8 mm in diameter) and semi-woody; cone scales separate after seeds mature; seeds winged

2a. Leaves are long (greater than 3 cm), needle-like, in fascicles of 2-5; cone large (greater than 4 cm long) and woody, seed with a conspicuous wing longer than the somewhat flattened seed **Pinaceae** (*Pinus* spp.)

3a. Needles in 2's, twisted, 5-10 cm long, female cones small, 3-6 cm long
Pinus glabra (Spruce Pine)

3b. Needles generally in 3's, tend not to be twisted, over 10 cm long, female cones larger, over 4 cm long, cones are generally shed after maturity, stems rarely if ever produced directly from large trunks

4a. Female cones oblong, generally over 9 cm long,

5a. Female cones with thin cone scales, female cones 6-13 cm long, cones bristly to the touch ... ***Pinus taeda*** (Loblolly Pine)

5b. Female cones with thick cone scales, female cones larger, 10-15 cm long, mature cones are not as bristly to the touch ... ***Pinus elliotii*** (Slash Pine)

4b. Female cone egg-shaped, about 5-8 cm long, cones persistent after maturity stems produced directly from large trunks (especially after fire), these are often tufted ***Pinus serotina*** (Pond Pine)

2b. Leaves smaller (less than 1 cm), triangular and produced in opposing pairs on a flattened branch; female cones small (less than 1 cm diameter); seed with a two lateral wings .

Cupressaceae ... ***Chamaecyparis thyoides*** (White Cedar)

1b. Plants with deciduous, feathery or awl-like leaves, not in clusters, female cones, hard, round (ca. 5 cm diameter) with tightly fitted scales; cones disintegrate when seeds mature; seeds unwinged **Taxodiaceae** ... ***Taxodium*** spp. (Cypress)

