

**MOUNTAIN TREE IDENTIFICATION\***

1. Tree has needles, go to step 2.

Tree has leaves, go to step 8.

1. Needles are in a bundle/cluster, go to 3.

Needles go right into the branch, go to 6 or 6A.

Needles have white spots on them, go to 7.

1. Two needles are in a bundle, go to 4.

Three to five needles are in a bundle, go to 5 or 5A.

1. Needles are 1-3 inches long.   
   Cones are shiny, yellow-brown and tightly closed.

Your tree: **Lodgepole Pine**.

1. Needles are very long, 3-7 inches.

Three needles in a bundle. Cones are red-brown:

Cone scales are tipped by a sharp point at the bottom.

Your tree: **Ponderosa Pine.**

5A. Five needles in a bundle. Branches are very bendy.

Cones are very large and woody.

Your tree is a **Limber Pine**.

1. Needles are “spiky” and sharp; blue or light green with white lines.

Cones are light brown and papery.

Your tree is a **Colorado Blue Spruce**.

6A. Needles are “furry” and flexible on the branch.

Cones are papery, small, soft and a light brown-purple.

Your tree is a **Douglas Fir.**

1. Needles have white spots (resin flakes) of sap on them.

The branch with needles is thick; looks like a bottle brush.

Cones have bristles that stick out on them.

Your tree is a **Bristlecone Pine**.

1. There are leaves, no needles; no cones.

Leaves change color and fall off in winter.

Your tree is a **Quaking Aspen**. **CONGRATULATIONS!**

**\*Original source unknown**