

By Mark Hughes

Tree owners often refer to their evergreen trees as pine trees whether they are pines or not. Wyoming has several types of native and introduced evergreens, including pine, spruce, fir, juniper, and others. While they may look somewhat similar, they have different growing requirements. See if you can identify the native evergreens on page 23 with help from the descriptions next to the corresponding number below. The Arbor Day Foundation has an online guide to tree identification at <http://arborday.org/trees/whattree/> to assist in identifying a wide variety of Western trees.



What evergreen is that?



1. This tree has needles in groups of two or three and that are 5-8 inches in length. It produces large cones, is found in several of Wyoming's forests, and is often planted in windbreaks.
2. The cones of this evergreen have three-pointed bracts between the cone scales. It has soft needles and is drought tolerant.
3. Native to Weston and Crook counties of northeastern Wyoming, this tree has small, dark-green needles. It is the state tree of a neighboring state.
4. This is perhaps the most commonly planted evergreen in Wyoming. Its sharp needles are more than 1-inch long and blue-green in color.
5. This tree has light gray branches that have the ability to twist and bend without being broken. When growing on exposed ridges or at timberline, it is often shaped by the wind into a stunted shrub. Its needles are 2 to 3 inches long and in groups of five.
6. In the forest, this tree has a very narrow growth habit but is much more spreading when grown in the open. It was used by Native Americans to construct poles for teepees. It has yellow-green to dark-green needles that are stout and grow in groups of two.

Answers: 1) Ponderosa pine 2) Douglas fir
3) Black Hills spruce 4) Blue spruce
5) Limber pine 6) Lodgepole pine

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1. _____



2. _____



3. _____



4. _____



5. _____



6. _____