



White Pine

Pinus strobus

Height: 25-30 m

Spread: 10-15 m

Native to: Eastern North America

Grows in: Forests and ravines

Friends with: Often grows with Basswood and Red Oak

White Pine: Sheltering and Peaceful

- White Pine is the only evergreen (conifer) candidate, meaning their needles stay on the tree throughout the entire year. This allows White Pine to provide shelter for birds and animals year round, but especially in harsh weather.

How to Identify

- Bark on young trees is greyish green and smooth, aging to dark greyish brown with broad scaly ridges.
- Buds are reddish-brown, pointed and resinous (sticky).
- Needles appear in bundles of five. They are thin, flexible and soft, unlike the sharp needles of many other Pines.
- Lookalikes: Red Pine and Black Pine might look similar, but White Pine needles feel extra soft and flexible.

White Pine needles grow in bundles of five! You can remember by counting W-H-I-T-E!



Flowers and Seeds

- Instead of flowers, White Pine produces small, upright stalks in spring. After pollination, the female structures will turn into cones.
- Pinecones hang from branches in clusters, and the scales of the cones open to release the seeds, which are eaten by birds and mammals.



White Pine flowers
and cone

Traditional and Historical Uses

- White Pine is of great cultural significance for many Indigenous communities, often acting as a symbol of peace or protection. Its timber has been used to build traditional dwellings, such as Longhouses, and to make dugout canoes.
- Post-colonial and industrial uses include lumber, furniture and ship masts.

Toronto's Urban Forest

- Toronto's urban forest includes trees, shrubs and plants that help keep Toronto healthy, vibrant and full of life.
- These leafy companions support local wildlife, help many plants and animals live and grow, and protect our neighbourhoods from noise and rain.
- Trees clean the air we breathe and create shady places to gather, play and explore.



Vote White Pine for Tree of the Year!

Kids can vote for Toronto's 2027 Tree of the Year during Kids Vote Weekend, taking place at all 50 advance voting places on October 10 and 11.

By participating, kids will learn about the voting process and help support the City's goal of reaching a 40% tree canopy by 2050.



Fun Facts:

- Many animals snack on the seeds hiding in White Pine's cones, especially squirrels and birds.
- White Pine keeps its needles all year round, creating cozy shelter for wildlife.
- White Pine often grows to be the tallest tree in the forest.