**SPRUCE**

- needles grow individually on the branch (as opposed to in clusters)
- needles are stiff and sharp
- the cross section of the needles are either square or triangular in and can be easily rolled between your fingers
- when needles are detached from branch, woody projections are left behind and the branch feels rough
- cones grow from a central stem and feel papery and thin; scales overlap

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**PINE**

- needles grow in clusters of 2, 3, or 5
- pines with clusters of 2 are red piness
- pines with clusters of 3 are yellow pines
- pines with clusters of 5 are white pines
- needles are bundled together at the base of the cluster
- needles lengths vary greatly among the different pines
- cones grow from a central stem and feel woody and thick; scales overlap
- seeds are located at base of scales; some cones have scales tipped with a sharp point
FIR

✦ needles grow individually on the branch (as opposed to in clusters)
✦ needles are flexible and flat
✦ cannot be rolled between your fingers
✦ needles have suction cup-like attachments, there are no woody projections
✦ when needles are detached from branch, a small circular leaf scar is left and the branch feels smooth
✦ cones scales overlap and are not woody (feel papery and flexible)
✦ cones grow upward toward the sky and often fall apart while still on the tree

HEMLOCK

✦ easily recognizable by their gracefully drooped branches
✦ needles grow along opposite sides of the branch (as opposed to all around) and are attached by woody pegs
✦ needles are flat with 2 white perpendicular lines on the underside
✦ needles are blunt at the tips
✦ cones grow at tips of branches and are only about 1 inch in size
✦ cones scales are thin and flexible