Conifer Resources for Tin Mountain Conservation Center Talk

1. White Pine: More common in valley locations.
* Five flexible needles per bundle, 3-5 inches long.
* Branches often grow in whorls that can help determine approximate age.
* Cones are banana shaped and 4-8 inches long.
1. Red Pine: Formerly called Norway Pine from its original finding in Norway, Maine.
* Two long 4-5 inch needles in a bundle.
* Bark has a reddish cast.
* Grows on rocky dry ridges, sandy plains and lake shores. Once heavily planted.
* Needles and branch ends point upward.
1. Pitch Pine: Grows on a variety of habitats, especially on sand plains.
* Three long needles to a cluster.
* Needles grow out of the trunk and branches.
* Cones open up after a fire.
1. Jack Pine: Curved resinous covered cones that open after forest fires
* Two short, stout, twisted needles in a cluster.
* Cones remain on trees for many years.
1. Scots Pine: Orange-barked non-native pine that is widely planted.
* Two stout needles up to two inches long.
1. Black Spruce: Typically grows in bogs and swamps, and also mountain tops around here.
* Crown often has lollipop shape.
* Needles are short and blue-green in color.
* Cones are tiny and often last on the tree for many years
1. Red Spruce: Are found on rocky, well drained upland sites.
* Sharp prickly needles when you grab a branch.
* Cones hang down from tree.
* Twigs are reddish to orange brown.
* Bark has small scales.
* Spruce needles have four sides and can be rolled, fir is flat, and you cannot roll.
1. White Spruce: Common north of the White Mountains.
* Light gray bark.
* Crushed needles have a distinctive fragrance.
1. Norway Spruce: Long drooping branches that hang down.
* Cones several inches long.
1. Balsam Fir: Our most common conifer that grows high up in the White Mountains.
* Distinct pointed shape as seen from a distance.
* Familiar Christmas tree fragrance.
* Bark is often blistered.
* Cones or cone stalks are upright and not hanging down.
* Needles are attached spirally and have two white marks on the underside.
* Needles are flat, soft, and not sharp like spruce. Friendly fir, Sharp spruce.
1. Tamarack: A deciduous conifer that turns golden in October.
* Short clusters of needles attached to a peg.
* Loses needles in winter.
1. Hemlock: Often found along cold streams, gullies, and can grow quite large, and attain great age.
* Needles lie flat and underside has white lines.
* Terminal leader (on top of tree) is droopy.
* Shade tolerant meaning it can grow under considerable shade.
* Old bark often shows purple color.

References:

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<http://cortland.cce.cornell.edu/resources/know-your-trees>

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