

Whitebark Pine and Limber Pine Identification

Whitebark Pine Cones



Photo: Richard Sniezko, USFS

Cone Identification:

Cones are 1 ½ to 3 inches long, broadly ovoid, purplish brown when mature. Scales are thick. Cones **do not** open.

Needles:

1 ½ to 3 inches long, somewhat stiff, green to yellow-green with indistinct lines of white stomatal bloom on all surfaces. There are 5 needles per fascicle.

Bark:

Usually less than ½ inch thick, grayish-white to brownish-white/grayish-brown. Scaly, inner bark is reddish-brown.

Habitat Range and Associations:

It grows in subalpine to alpine areas. In Wyoming it is generally found above 8,000 ft. It may grow in pure stands ranging from closed to stands to open woodlands. It also grows in association with limber pine at high elevations. Other associations include high elevation mixed conifer subalpine, Engelmann spruce and lodgepole pine.

Attachment 2.

Limber Pine Cones



Photo: Eve Warren, Wyoming BLM, Worland F.O.

Cone Identification:

Cones are 3 ½ to 7 inches long, ovoid-cylindrical, bright green, becoming yellowish-brown at maturity. Cones open.

Needles:

2 to 3 inches long, stout, dark green to yellow-green with white lines of stomatal bloom that is not always distinct. Apex is blunt. There are 5 needles per fascicle.

Bark:

Thin, greenish-gray to light brown on smaller trees. Dark grayish-brown on old trees. Furrowed and broken into rectangular blocks. Bark is 1 ½ to 2 inches thick on old trees.

Habitat, Range and Associations:

It has the largest elevational range of any conifer in the Rocky Mountains. IN Wyoming it is found from 4,000 feet to tree-line. It may grow in pure stands ranging from closed to stands to open woodlands. At lower elevations it may be found in association with juniper (Utah and Rocky Mountain), higher up it can be found with ponderosa pine and Douglas fir. It also grows in association with whitebark pine at high elevations. Other associations include high elevation mixed conifer subalpine, Engelmann spruce and lodgepole pine.