

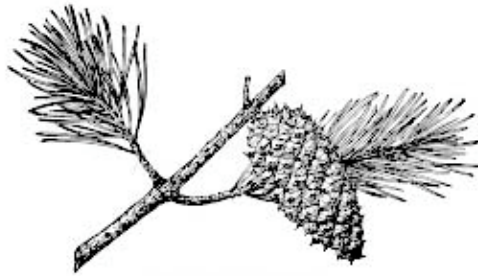
IDENTIFICATION KEY PINES TYPICAL TO NORTHERN LOUISIANA, SOUTHERN ARKANSAS, AND NORTHEASTERN TEXAS

The needle-shaped leaves of the pines are clustered in groups (called *fascicles* [fa-sik-als]). The number of leaves in the fascicles and the length of the leaves are the primary identification features for pines; bark and cones are secondary identification features.

There are no pines in this area having only one leaf.

1. How many leaves in the fascicles? If 2 leaves, go to Step 2; if 3 leaves, go to Step 3; if 5 leaves, go to Step 4.
2. How long are the leaves?

1½ to 3", twisted; thin, reddish brown bark; cones usually in groups of 2 to 4 but sometimes single: Virginia Pine (*Pinus virginiana*).

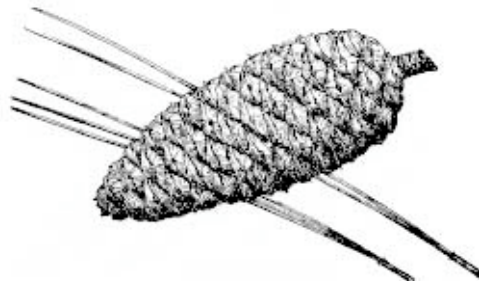


3 to 5", slender, dark bluish green; scaly, nearly black bark on young trees turning more reddish brown with age; 1½ to 2½" egg-shaped cones: Shortleaf Pine (*Pinus echinata*).

NOTE: Very common in region.

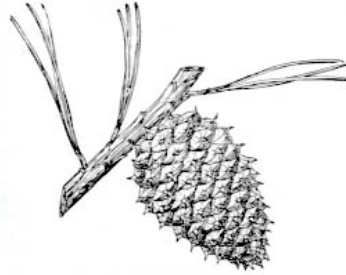


8 to 12", dark green; gray mixed with yellow tan bark that forms large scales; 2 to 6" long, narrow cones: Slash Pine (*Pinus elliottii*). **NOTE:** The tree gets its name from the fact that the trees were slashed to obtain pitch for making pine tar and turpentine.

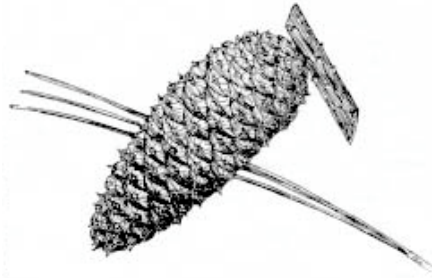


3. How long are the leaves?

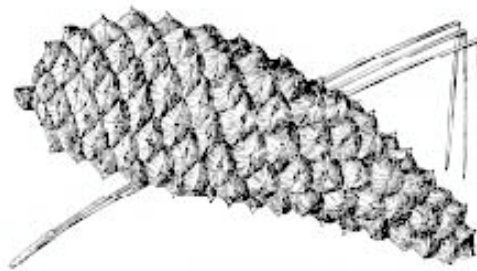
3½ to 4½", dark green, slightly curved and twisted; dark and very scaly bark; lateral cones in whorls of 3 to 5, 2½" long, very prickly in appearance: Pitch Pine (*Pinus rigida*). **NOTE:** If found, will most likely be in Arkansas.



6 to 9", slender, dark green; black on young trees with blocks of brown on old trees; 3 to 6" long, narrow single cones: Loblolly Pine (*Pinus taeda*). **NOTE:** Most common in region.

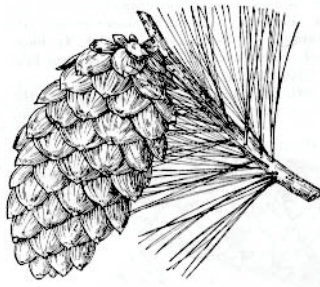


8 to 18", dark, bluish green, straight; gray to dark gray bark; 6 to 8" long, narrow cones: Longleaf or Southern Yellow Pine (*Pinus palustris*).



4. How long are the leaves?

2½ to 3½", densely crowded at end of stem, curved or slightly twisted; light gray to grayish brown bark; 3 to 6" egg-shaped cones about 1½" wide that stand up when young and droop when mature: Limber Pine (*Pinus flexilis*). **NOTE:** As the name implies, this is a very limber tree. It is almost impossible to break a live limb by bending it.



3 to 5", slender, bluish green; smooth grayish green bark that becomes darker and more scaly with age; 6 to 8" light brown, very narrow cones that hang down: Eastern White Pine (*Pinus strobus*). **NOTE:** Rare in this region, but sometimes found.

