



AMERICAN ELM *Ulmus americana* L.



American elm is one of our largest and most graceful trees; it occurs throughout the state, although its numbers have been severely reduced by Dutch elm disease. It is found most often on rich bottomland and moist soil along streams, but sometimes grows on higher ground. It grows quickly, attaining a height of 60–70 feet and a diameter of 2–4 feet.

The trunk often divides into numerous limbs, which form a vase-shaped or spreading, round-topped head with graceful, drooping branches.

The number of American elms in Maine has been severely reduced by Dutch elm disease.





The **bark** on the trunk is separated into broad ridges by deep fissures and is ashy-gray on the surface. It shows alternate layers of chocolate brown and buff coloration beneath.

The **leaves** are alternate, 3–6 inches long, with coarsely doubly-toothed margins and uneven bases. The upper surface is dark green and sandpaper-like.

The **flowers** appear in April before the leaves.

The **fruit** consists of a small, winged seed which ripens about the end of May, before the leaves have fully developed. It has a wide, open notch at the apex and a hairy margin.

The **wood** is spiral and coarse-grained, hard, heavy, strong, tough and hard to split. It is used for flooring, railroad ties and pulp. In the past it was used to make barrel hoops, barn stall flooring, door thresholds and wheel hubs.

Slippery elm, *Ulmus rubra* Muhl, has been recorded in Franklin and York counties, but these records are historical. A few specimens have been found in association with cultural settings, but it is not known if these populations are native or escaped. If it still occurs naturally in the state, it is undoubtedly quite rare. Slippery elm is most easily distinguished from American elm by the winter buds which are covered with rusty hairs. In the past, the inner bark of the slippery elm was chewed to relieve sore throats.



American elm twigs have a zigzag pattern and slightly flattened buds.



MAINE REGISTER OF BIG TREES 2008

American Elm Circumference: 244" Height: 110' Crown Spread: 120' Location: Yarmouth





BALSAM FIR *Abies balsamea* (L.) P. Mill.



Balsam fir is the most abundant tree in the state.

Balsam fir occurs statewide and is the most abundant tree in the state. It is frequently found in damp woods and on well-drained hillsides, and often occurs in thickets. The tree normally forms a sharp spire to a height of 60–70 feet and grows to 12–20 inches in diameter. On young trees, the branches are horizontal, slender, and produced in regular whorls to form a strikingly symmetrical crown. In old age, the top is often slim, regular and spire-like.

The **bark** on young trees is pale gray, smooth, thin and has prominent blisters that are filled with a resinous liquid known as “Canada balsam.” On old trees the bark gets rougher and blisters are absent.

The aromatic **leaves** are about 1 inch long, dark green, and shiny above with 2 rows of white stomata below. The tips are occasionally notched. On branches in full sun, leaves turn up, but on lower branches they spread out at right angles to the branch, giving it a flattened appearance.

MAINE REGISTER OF
BIG TREES 2008

Balsam Fir

Circumference: 78"

Height: 104'

Crown Spread: 23'

Location: T4 R3 WELS





Like all true firs, balsam fir cones point upward and disintegrate when they are mature.



The **cones** are 2–4 inches long, erect and dark purple before maturity. Cones ripen in August and September of the first year, and disintegrate shortly thereafter, leaving only the central spike-like stalks. The twigs are smooth after the leaves have shed. Winter buds are covered with clear resin.

The **wood** is soft, light and moderately limber. It is sawed into dimension lumber chiefly for light and medium building construction, and is used extensively for pulp. Balsam fir is favored for Christmas trees and greens. Each fall many tons of branch tips are collected for making Christmas wreaths. In the past, the branches were steamed in a retort to produce oil of balsam. Also, the clear pitch formed in the blisters of relatively young bark was used to mount microscope slides and to attach theatrical costumes to bare skin.

The smooth bark with resin blisters distinguishes balsam fir from the rest of our conifers.





BLACK ASH *Fraxinus nigra* Marsh.



Black or brown ash occurs statewide. It grows almost entirely on rich, moist ground or in cold, wet swamps and along the banks of streams.

It is a tall, slender tree with a short, narrow head. It grows to a height of 50–60 feet and a diameter of 10–20 inches. The trunk is often without branches for a considerable distance from the ground.

The **bark** is gray to dark gray, corky and spongy, with more or less parallel ridges. It rubs off freely with the hand.

Black ash wood is used for interior finishing, cabinet work, baskets and, to a limited extent, pulp.





The wing of black ash fruit completely surrounds the seed body.

The **leaves** are 12–15 inches long, opposite, and have 7–11 leaflets that are 4–5 inches long, and without stalks except the one at the tip. Leaflets are lance-shaped and have remotely-toothed margins. The upper surface is dark green. There are buff-colored hairs at the junction of the leaflets and rachis.

The **fruit** is a single samara occurring in clusters. The seed is flattened and completely surrounded by the wing.

The **twigs** are smooth, gray to olive-green. The buds are black or brown and pointed at the tip. The inner layer of the bark is dirty white.

The **wood** is coarse-grained, heavy, tough, durable and pliable. It is used for interior finishing, cabinet work, baskets and, to a limited extent, pulp. In the past it was used to make barrel hoops.



MAINE REGISTER OF BIG TREES 2008	
Black Ash	
Circumference:	139"
Height:	82'
Crown Spread:	56'
Location:	Waterboro



AREA OF OCCURRENCE





BLACK SPRUCE *Picea mariana* (P. Mill.) B. S. P.



In the past, spruce beer was made by boiling the branches of the black spruce.

Black spruce occurs statewide; it grows on cool upland soils, but is more commonly found along streams, on the borders of swamps and in sphagnum bogs. It is also often found on the sandy soils of eastern Maine. It can grow to a height of 50–70 feet and a diameter of 6–12 inches, but is normally smaller than the maximum size. On a good site, it will grow rapidly. In sphagnum bogs, trees 50–80 years old may be only 6–8 feet tall and about one inch in diameter. The branches are short, pendulous and have a tendency to curve up at the ends. It forms an open, irregular crown. The lower branches often touch the ground, and root to form new trees. This method of reproduction is known as “layering.”

The **bark** on the trunk is grayish-brown and the surface is broken into thin scales. The **leaves** are $\frac{1}{4}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, dull blue-green, blunt-pointed, flexible and soft to the touch.





The **cones**, which usually stay on the trees for many years, are ½–1½ inches long, ovoid, and become nearly spherical when open. The cone scales are stiff and have toothed margins.

The **twigs** have many hairs, some of which are tipped with glands. The inner bark is olive-green.

The **wood** is soft and light, but strong. It is used for pulp, framing and construction lumber, and planking. Historically, spruce beer was made by boiling the branches.



Black spruce cones persist on the tree for many years. Look for clumps of old, gray, weathered cones high in the tree.



MAINE REGISTER OF BIG TREES 2008
Black Spruce Circumference: 47" Height: 66' Crown Spread: 20' Location: Camden





BLACK WILLOW *Salix nigra* Marsh.

WILLOWS *Salix* spp. L.

Maine has many willows, but this is a large and difficult group to identify. The Revised Checklist of the Vascular Plants of Maine, 1995 (see Appendix Four, p. 105) shows 58 native and exotic species, varieties, and hybrids known to be present in the state.

Maine's willows range in size from large trees to small prostrate shrubs found in the alpine tundra. With the exception of black willow, most of Maine's native willows are small trees or shrubs. Some of the exotic species can grow to be very large. All willows share the following characteristics: Buds are covered with a single, cap-like scale with silky, gray hairs beneath the scale. Leaves are alternate, mostly narrow, and the petioles are short or lacking. Flowers occur in catkins. Fruits consist of small, usually two-valved capsules filled with silky hairs that are attached to the seeds.

Black willow occurs primarily in southern and western Maine. It grows to a height of 45–65 feet, and is found along streams and ponds. The stout, upright, spreading branches give the tree a broad, irregular outline. It is probably our largest native willow. The **bark** on old trees is shaggy and dark brown. The **leaves** are very narrow, sometimes sickle-shaped, finely-toothed, 3–6 inches long and green on both sides. The **wood** is soft, light, weak and is used occasionally for farm lumber and pulp.



Top right: A typical willow twig.

MAINE REGISTER OF BIG TREES 2008

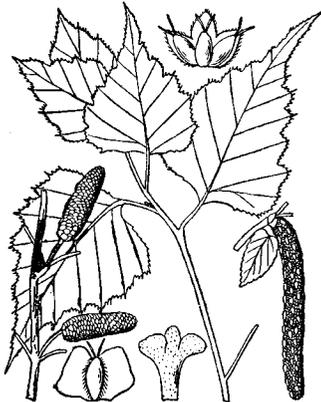
Black Willow Circumference: 266" Height: 84'

Crown Spread: 64' Location: Yarmouth





GRAY BIRCH *Betula populifolia* Marsh.



Gray birch is a short-lived and not particularly valuable tree. It occurs to some extent statewide, but is only abundant in the southern and eastern sections of the state. It is frequently found in old fields, burns and heavily-cut areas. This is a small tree that commonly reaches 20–30 feet in height and 4–8 inches in

Gray birch is a short-lived and not particularly valuable tree that is used primarily for pulp and firewood.





BIRCH

diameter. It usually occurs in clumps and often leans. The branches are short, slender, frequently pendulous and contorted, and bend toward the ground when the tree is not crowded. The head is long, narrow, pointed and open.

The **bark** is close and firm, and does not easily separate into thin layers. The outer part is dull grayish-white or chalky. The inner portion is orange.

The **leaves** are 2½–3 inches in length, thin, long-pointed, triangular, alternate and doubly toothed. The upper surface is dark green and glossy. The slightest breeze causes them to flutter like those of the poplars, hence the scientific name *Betula populifolia* which means “birch with poplar leaves.”

The **flowers** are produced in catkins. They open in early spring before the leaves. Those that appear in fall are male and usually solitary.

Gray birch has single or paired catkins in winter and spring.

The **twigs** are the most slender of our native hardwoods. They are tough and wiry, dull gray or brown, hairless, and have a rough, warty surface. Dead twigs tend to stay attached to the trunk. This, plus the dirty appearance of the bark, makes this tree easy to recognize.

The **wood** is light, soft, often coarse-grained, and decays rapidly when exposed. It is occasionally used for pulp and firewood; in the past it was used for paper roll plugs.

MAINE REGISTER OF
BIG TREES 2008

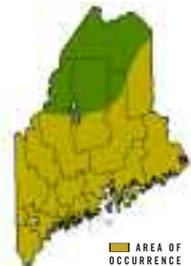
Gray Birch

Circumference: 71"

Height: 65'

Crown Spread: 27'

Location: Richmond





GREEN ASH *Fraxinus pennsylvanica* Marsh.



Green or red ash occurs over much of the state, particularly along the major rivers. It is not as abundant as the white and black ash, but is fairly common in central Maine. Sometimes mistaken for black ash, it grows near the banks of streams and lakes on rich, moist soil. It has stout branches that bend downward on older trees and form an irregular, compact head in the forest. It seldom exceeds a height of 50–60 feet and a diameter of 16–20 inches.

The quality of green ash wood is not as good as white ash.





Green ash twigs are often hairy and do not have deeply notched leaf scars.

MAINE REGISTER OF BIG TREES 2008
Green Ash
Circumference: 115"
Height: 63'
Crown Spread: 65'
Location: Mechanic Falls

The **bark** on the trunk of old trees is dark gray or brown, and firm and furrowed like that of the white ash.

The **leaves** are 10–12 inches long, opposite, with 7–9 leaflets borne per stalk. Leaflets are 4–6 inches long, entire or wavy, or sometimes toothed, particularly on the upper-half of the leaflets, yellow-green on the upper surface, hairy below and on the rachis, and oval to elliptical.

The **fruit** has a funnel-shaped seed body gradually blending into the terminal wing.

The current year **twigs** are greenish-gray and covered with numerous hairs, although sometimes there are no hairs. Inner bark is cinnamon red.

The **wood** is hard, heavy, fairly strong, coarse-grained and brittle. It is used in the same ways as white ash.





NORTHERN WHITE CEDAR

Thuja occidentalis L.



Cedar has emerged as a viable alternative to pressure-treated wood.

Northern white cedar or eastern arborvitae is generally found in swamps, along streams, on mountain slopes and in old pastures where the soil is moist. Dense stands are widely distributed statewide. It is most abundant in the northern and eastern sections, and grows best on alkaline soils. It is widely used as an ornamental. The head is compact, narrow and pyramidal. The branches are horizontal, short and turned upward. Trees grow to 60 feet in height and to 3 feet in diameter. The trunk is often strongly buttressed.

The **bark** has shallow fissures, which divide it into flat narrow ridges. It is reddish-brown and often tinged with orange.

The **leaves** are opposite or two-ranked, usually only about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch long, scale-like, blunt, and so arranged as to make the small branches flat in





Northern white cedar cones are about 1/2 inch long and often occur in large numbers.

shape. They have a pleasant aroma and a rather pleasing taste, and are a major source of food for deer in the winter.

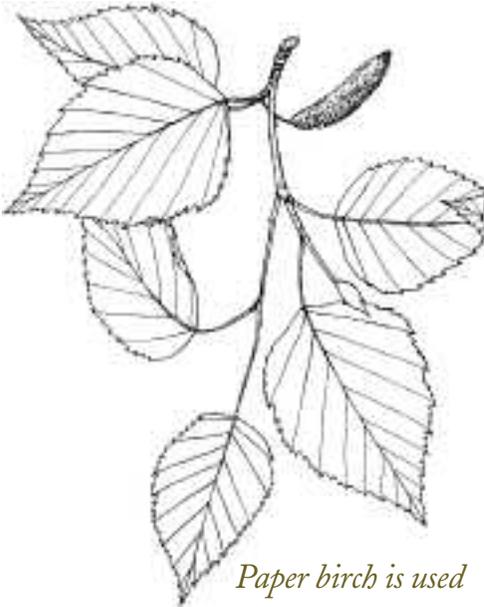
The **cones** are erect, small, about 1/2 inch long, with only a few pairs of scales. They mature in one season. The seed is small and winged.

The **wood** is soft and light, coarse-grained, brittle, has very durable heartwood and a fragrant odor. It is used primarily for shingles, slack cooperage (barrels for dry, semi-dry or solid products), poles, posts and rustic fencing; and it is sawed into lumber for hope chests (since the wood is said to repel moths), siding, canoes and boats. More recently, cedar has emerged as a viable alternative to pressure-treated wood. Naturally weather-resistant, it is used for decks, post and rail fencing, outdoor furniture, roof shakes, and pelt stretchers.





PAPER BIRCH *Betula papyrifera* Marsh.



Paper birch is used to make toothpicks and golf tees.

Paper, white or canoe birch is a common tree in all parts of the state; it occurs in pure stands or in mixture with other species. It reaches 60–70 feet in height and 1–2 feet in diameter. It grows along streams and on the borders of lakes and ponds, thriving best in a rich, moist soil.

When young, the branches are short, slender, spreading, somewhat drooping, and form a narrow, regular head. In the forest, the trunk is free from branches well up from the ground; and the tree forms an open, narrow and round-topped head.

The **bark** is a protective layer and should never be removed from living trees. On the trunk and limbs, it separates freely and easily into thin, papery sheets. The outer surface is white, the inner part bright orange. Seedlings or





very young trees have a darker colored bark, which gradually changes to a creamy-white.

The **leaves** are alternate, ovate, short-pointed, 2–4 inches long, thicker than those of gray birch, doubly-toothed, with the upper surface dark green and dull.

The **flowers** are in catkins. They open in early spring before the leaves. Those appearing in fall are dormant, staminate catkins and occur mostly in clusters of three.

The **twigs** are usually hairy and, unlike yellow birch, without a winter-green taste. The buds are slightly sticky.

The **wood** is close-grained, moderately hard, and strong. It is used for woodenware, flatware and turned products including toys, dowels, furniture parts, pulp and firewood.

The tree gets the name of “paper birch” from how the bark was used by early settlers, and that of “canoe birch” because the bark was used to

Paper birch bark will peel off in large sheets, but it should never be removed from living trees.

make canoes. In the early spring paper birch sap contains considerable sugar. Historically paper birch was one of the most valuable tree species in Maine. In the past, the wood was used to make shoe pegs (used instead of nails in the manufacture of shoes) as well as a number of products that used to be made in Maine, but are now manufactured off-shore. These include clothespins, yarn spools, toothpicks, paper roll plugs and plywood.

MAINE REGISTER OF
BIG TREES 2008
Paper Birch
Circumference: 148"
Height: 72'
Crown Spread: 22'
Location: Alton



AREA OF OCCURRENCE





RED MAPLE *Acer rubrum* L.



Red maple—also known as soft, white or swamp maple—occurs throughout the state. A rapid grower and the most abundant of the maples, it is typically found in swamps and poorly drained sites, but also occurs elsewhere. The red maple is a medium-sized, slender tree that becomes 50–60 feet high, and 1–2 feet in diameter. The branches are upright, forming a somewhat narrow head. Usually the trunk is not divided.

The **bark** on young trees is smooth and light gray. On old trunks, it is dark gray, ridged and broken into plate-like scales.





Red maples produce bright red flowers followed by abundant seeds in the springtime.

The **leaves** are opposite, 3–5 inches long, with 3–5 lobes and margins that are irregularly double-toothed. The upper surface is light green; lower surface is white. The sides of the terminal lobe converge toward the tip; and the notches between lobes are V-shaped. In fall, the leaves turn scarlet and orange.

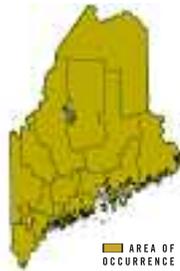
The **flowers** are produced in clusters on stalks before leaf buds open. Males are yellowish-red while females are bright scarlet. The red maple is one of the first trees to flower in spring.

The **fruit** is winged, ripens in spring or early summer, and germinates as soon as it falls. Wings are only slightly divergent, about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long. The seed body lacks a depression.

The **twigs** are straight, stiff, do not have a rank odor when broken, and are red on both surfaces. Buds are red and often clustered.

The **wood** is close-grained, heavy, moderately strong, easily worked but not durable, although it will take a good polish. It is used mainly for pulp and firewood, but also for pallets, furniture stock, canoe paddles and turnery products. As sugar maple becomes more expensive, more mills are using red maple. It is also commonly used for landscape plantings.

MAINE REGISTER OF
BIG TREES 2008
Red Maple Circumference: 183" Height: 69'
Crown Spread: 67' Location: Richmond





RED SPRUCE *Picea rubens* Sarg.



Red spruce is one of our most valuable trees for the production of building lumber.

Red spruce is commonly found throughout the state. It grows on well-drained, rocky upland soils, and particularly on the north side of mountain slopes where it may be the major species present. The spreading branches form a somewhat conical, narrow head in young trees. The trunk is long, with a slight taper. It grows to considerable size, and is capable of attaining a height of 60–80 feet and a diameter of 1–2 feet, but occasionally exceeds these measurements. Red spruce is shade-tolerant and will become established in the understory of mixed stands.

The **bark** on mature trees is thick and is broken into thin, reddish-brown scales of irregular shape. The **leaves** are dark green, often with a yellow tinge, and are very shiny. They are about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long, sharp-pointed, stiff, prickly to the touch, and point toward the tip of the branch. The **cones** are oblong and usually $1\frac{1}{2}$ –2 inches long. When ripe, they are reddish-brown and quite shiny. The cone scales are stiff like the





black spruce, but the margins are generally without conspicuous notches. The cones begin to drop in autumn or early winter, and are all gone from the branches by the next summer.

The **twigs** have hairs, none of which have a gland at the tip. The inner bark is reddish-brown. The **wood** is fairly soft, light, close-grained and strong, but is not as durable as pine when exposed to the weather.

Red spruce is one of our most valuable trees for the production of building lumber. It is used for joists, sills, rafters, pilings, weir poles and heavy construction timbers. It is a principal wood used in the manufacture of paper pulp, and is valuable for the sounding boards of musical instruments. Pitch for spruce gum is obtained largely from this tree.



Red spruce is the characteristic tree of the "Acadian forest" of northern New England and the Canadian Maritimes.



MAINE REGISTER OF BIG TREES 2008
Red Spruce Circumference: 103" Height: 87' Crown Spread: 35' Location: T15 R9 WELS





SPECKLED ALDER

Alnus incana ssp. *Rugosa* (Du Roi) Clausen

Speckled alder is very common in Maine, usually growing in wet areas along brooks, in swamps and in pastures. It sprouts readily and is a nuisance on pasture land. Alder usually occurs as a shrub, rarely as a small tree. It is seldom more than 4 inches in diameter and 20 feet in height.

The **bark** is smooth, dark chocolate brown, and marked with white, horizontal, elongated spots called lenticels.

The **leaves** are alternate, 2–3 inches long, usually broadly ovate; and the texture is rough or rugose as the scientific name implies. The edges are unevenly or doubly-toothed.

The **flowers** are in catkins, and open before the leaves in spring. The purplish, wax-like male catkins are pre-formed the previous fall. The fruit is woody and cone-like, with a very short stalk.

The **winter buds** are short-stalked and maroon, with few scales showing.

The **twigs** are reddish-brown; the pith is triangular in cross section.

The **wood** is light and soft, and has very little commercial use. The wood discolors very rapidly on exposure to air. Baskets for the florist industry are made from small diameter stems. In the past, the wood was used in hand forges, because of the intense heat it produces when burned.

Two other species, **green or mountain alder**—*Alnus viridis* (Vill.) Lam. & DC. *Spp. Crispa* (Ait.) Tirrill)—and **hazel alder** (*Alnus serrulata* (Ait.) Willd.) occur as shrubs.





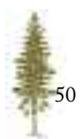
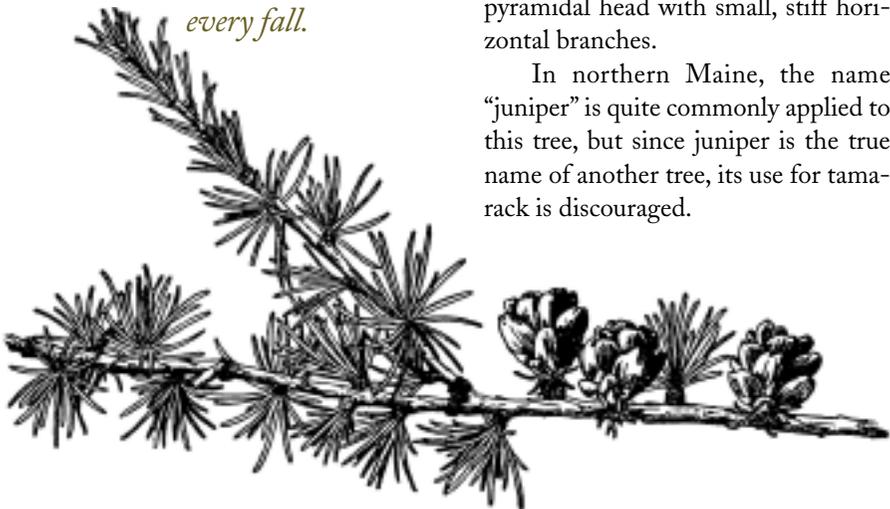
TAMARACK *Larix laricina* (Du Roi) K. Koch

Tamarack, eastern larch or hackmatack is most commonly found in cool, swampy places, although it also grows on well-drained soil. It is found in scattered stands throughout the state. It can grow rapidly and is not tolerant of shade.

Tamarack is our only native conifer that sheds all its leaves every fall.

In the forest, the tree grows to a height of 50–60 feet and a diameter of 20 inches. It has a regular, narrow, pyramidal head with small, stiff horizontal branches.

In northern Maine, the name “juniper” is quite commonly applied to this tree, but since juniper is the true name of another tree, its use for tamarack is discouraged.





NATIONAL AND
MAINE REGISTER OF
BIG TREES 2008

Tamarack

Circumference: 143"

Height: 92'

Crown Spread: 31'

Location: T13 R8 WELS



The **bark** separates on the surface into small, thin, irregular reddish-brown scales.

The **leaves** are linear, about 1 inch long, triangular in cross section, and borne in clusters of 8 or more on spurs, except on elongating new shoots, where they occur singly. They are bright green and turn a beautiful yellow just before they fall. Tamarack provides some of the last color of the fall, as its needles turn color after most trees have already shed their leaves. It is our only native conifer that sheds all its leaves every fall.

The **cones** are small, nearly spherical, about 3/4 inch long, light brown, and borne erect on stout stems. They open in fall to liberate the small

winged seeds and usually remain on the tree until the following year.

The **wood** is rather coarse-grained, hard, heavy and strong, with durable heartwood. It is used for planking, timbers, ties, poles, signposts, pilings and pulp. Historically, tamarack knees (the buttresses formed by large roots) were used in shipbuilding. Tamarack was also used for mud sills in home construction.



On older twigs, tamarack needles occur in clusters of up to 50 on short spur branches.





WHITE ASH *Fraxinus americana* L.



White ash is one of Maine's valuable timber trees and is found commonly throughout the state.

White ash is one of Maine's valuable timber trees and is found commonly throughout the state. Best growth occurs on rich, rather moist soil of low hills. It grows to a height of 60–70 feet and a diameter of 15–30 inches. The branches are upright or spreading, forming a narrow top in the forest.

The **bark** pattern resembles a woven basket; it is broken into broad, parallel ridges by deep furrows, and is dark brown or deep gray.

The **leaves** are opposite, 8–12 inches long and consist of 5–9 (usually 7) leaflets. The leaflets are 3–5 inches long, oval to lance-shaped, borne on short stalks, edges remotely toothed towards the tip, dark green and often shiny on the upper surface. In fall, they turn to a soft, velvety purple.

The **fruit** is a single samara occurring in clusters. The seed body is cigar-shaped and has a terminal wing.





MAINE REGISTER OF
BIG TREES 2008

White Ash
Circumference: 244"
Height: 95'
Crown Spread: 70'
Location: South Waterford

White ash twigs are hairless and have deeply notched leaf scars.

The **twigs** have a smooth, shiny bark which is grayish, greenish or maroon on the surface. The inner layer of the bark is brick red. The terminal buds are rounded or dome-shaped.

The **wood** is hard, strong and tough. It is used for agricultural implements, tool handles, oars, furniture, interior finish, dowels, pulp and firewood, and sporting goods including baseball bats, hockey sticks and snowshoe frames.





WHITE SPRUCE *Picea glauca* (Moench) Voss



The wood of the white spruce is used for pulp, paddles, oars, piano sounding boards and dimension lumber, while its cones are used to make decorative wreaths.

White or cat spruce occurs statewide except in York county. It is widely distributed, but not as abundant as red spruce. It grows on shallow, rocky sites from the coast to the tree line in the mountains, and is also commonly found in old pastures and on cleared land. It does not tolerate shade and does not grow as an understory tree. The long and rather thick branches, densely clothed with stout, rigid lateral branches, are curved upward and form a somewhat open, irregular head with a broad base. It commonly grows to a height of 60–90 feet and to a diameter of 2 feet.

The **bark** on old trees has light gray, plate-like scales, which are thin and irregular, with a somewhat brownish surface. Younger trees have smooth, light gray bark.

The **leaves** point straight out from the branch. On the lower half of the twig the leaves are often bent upward in such a manner as to bring them all on the upper side. They are pale blue-





green at first, later becoming a dark blue-green. The foliage emits a peculiar and characteristic odor, which is a ready means of distinguishing it from the other spruce species and is the reason for the alternate name.

The **cones** are slender, cylindrical, pale brown and shiny when ripe, and usually about 2 inches long. They ripen in August and September, and may be collected for seed until October. Cones usually fall off the first year. The cone scales are thin and flexible, so that they give easily when the cone is clasped in the hand. The **twigs** are without hairs. The inner bark is silvery and glistens.

The **wood** is fairly light, soft, finishes well and is moderately strong. It is used for pulp, paddles, oars, piano sounding boards and dimension lumber, while its cones are used to make decorative wreaths. It shouldn't, however, be used as a Christmas tree; when it is brought indoors, the reason for its nicknames—cat spruce and skunk

White spruce cones are cylindrical and the scales can be easily broken apart. This distinguishes it from red and black spruce, which have globe or egg-shaped cones with stiff scales.

spruce—become evident. White and black spruce produce long, tough, pliable roots which were used by American Indians to tie together pieces of birch bark for canoes and other purposes.

