Eastern White Pine
5-needle bundles; can grow very tall; lower branches are bare or have fallen off; long and skinny pine cone

Red Pine
2-needle bundles; can grow tall; distinctive grey and scaly bark; short and fat pine cones

Pitch Pine
3-needle bundles; can grow very tall; armor-like bark with deep clefts between scales; grows in sandy soils

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Eastern Hemlock
can be very tall;
short, fat, and flat
needles with white lines
on the underside;
tiny cones

Balsam Fir
A Christmas tree;
soft, narrow needles
with two lines on the
underside; cones grow
up from branches;
crushed needles smell
like Christmas

Spruce
another Christmas tree;
sharp, round needles
that can be rolled
between fingers; no
white lines on needles;
cones hang below
branches; crushed
needles smell like
oranges or cat pee
N. White Cedar
bark is grayish-brown and stringy;
needles are flat green scales that don’t prick;
little, smooth green cones in bunches

E. Red Cedar
stringy bark;
needles are round and prickly, like little sticks;
has bunches of white or blue berries

Tamarack
a star or fan-like burst of soft needles
Sugar Maple
*helicopter seeds; leaves have 5 arms with points on them and smooth “U”s between the points*

Red Maple
*helicopter seeds; leaves have 3-5 arms—if 5 arms the bottom 2 arms are small; serrated or finely toothed edges on leaves*

Silver Maple
*helicopter seeds; leaves have 5 skinny arms with deep notches between them; grows by rivers and lakes*

Striped Maple
*smaller tree; smooth bark with green stripes; leaves are fat with 3 arms and look like duck feet*
Northern Red Oak
big leaves with 5-11
pointy lobes; acorns
taste bitter

White Oak
big leaves with 7-9
rounded lobes; acorns
taste sweet

Bigtooth Aspen
oval leaves with large,
round teeth; soft,
floating “dandelion”
seeds

Quaking Aspen
heart-shaped leaf with
many small, pointy
teeth; soft, floating
“dandelion” seeds
Paper Birch
white bark with thick, wide peeling strips; fat oval leaves with serrated teeth

Yellow Birch
yellow or gray bark with thin, narrow peeling ringlets; oval leaves with serrated teeth and pointier tip than paper birch

American Beech
bark is grey and smooth, sometimes with white blotches; leaves are serrated ovals; nuts in spiky balls sometimes present
American Elm
leaves look like beech leaves but bark is rough with ridges; its roots sometimes look like “feet” attached to its trunk; can have a vase-shape

Hophornbeam
(Ironwood)
Bark looks like someone glued a bunch of rectangles to the trunk; serrated leaves alternate between large and small teeth; papery seedpod

Shagbark Hickory
tall tree with leaves often high up; shaggy bark that peels in long, vertical scales
Ash
bark has a diamond pattern; leaves are arranged with one leaflet at the end of a stem and leaves on either side of the stem (pinnate); twigs come from a single point or from opposite sides of the same branch

Black Cherry
white flowers in spring and cherries in late summer and fall hang from stems coming out of a central stalk; bark is shiny on young trees but looks like burnt cornflakes on mature trees; leaves are ovals with long points and fine-tooth edges