

Eastern White Pine

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Kingdom: Plantae
Phylum: Pinophyta
Class: Pinopsida
Order: Pinales
Family: Pinaceae
Genus: *Pinus*
Subgenus: *Strobus*
Species: *P. strobus*

Eastern White Pine (*Pinus strobus*) is a large pine native to eastern North America, occurring from Newfoundland west to Minnesota and southeastern Manitoba, and south along the Appalachian Mountains to the northern edge of Georgia. It is occasionally known as simply **White Pine**, **Northern White Pine**, or **Soft Pine**.

Like all members of the white pine group, *Pinus* subgenus *Strobus*, the leaves ('needles') are in fascicles (bundles) of five (rarely 3 or 4), with a deciduous sheath. They are flexible, bluish-green, finely serrated, and 5-13 centimeters (2–5 in) long, and persist for usually about 18 months.



The cones are slender, 8-16 centimeters (3–6 in) long (rarely longer than that) and 4-5 centimeters (1.5–2 in) broad when open, and have scales with a rounded apex and slightly reflexed tip. The seeds are 4-5 millimeters (3/16 in) long, with a slender 15–20 mm (3/4 in) wing, and are wind-dispersed. Cone production peaks every 3 to 5 years.

Mature trees can easily be 200 to 250 years old. Some white pines live over 400 years. White pines prefer well-drained soil and cool, humid climates, but also grow in boggy areas and rocky highlands. In mixed forests, this dominant tree towers over all others, including the large hardwoods.

White pine forests originally covered much of northeastern North America, though only one percent of the original trees remain untouched by extensive logging operations operating from the 1700s into the early 1900s.

These trees are moderately fire resistant; mature trees survive most surface fires due to thick bark, branch-free trunks, and a moderately deep rooting habit. (Younger trees are not as fire resistant.) Needles have relatively low resin content so are not highly flammable.

They're often used in cabinetmaking, furniture, interior finishes, woodenware, matches and lumber. The white pine produces the most valuable softwood lumber in eastern North America and is used extensively for interior trim, window sashes, door frames and for intricate carpentry. Lightweight, soft, even-textured, and easily worked, Eastern White Pine is probably the least resinous of all pines.

