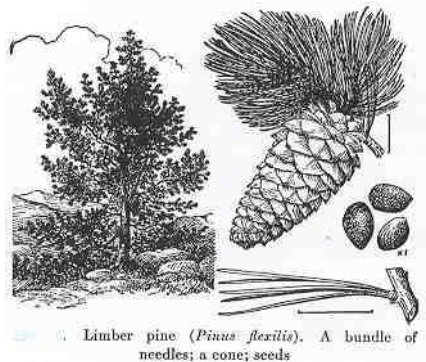


# HOW TO KNOW THE PINES

## in San Antonio Canyon



### **What is a pine?**

Pines are recognized by their cones and long, thin needle-like leaves bundled in a papery sleeve.

### **Key**

1. Is there only one leaf in the bundle?  
Yes. It is pinyon pine.  
No. Go to 2.
2. Are there two leaves in the bundle?  
Yes. Go to 3.  
No. Go to 4.
3. Are there cones of many seasons remaining on the main branches?  
Yes. It is Aleppo pine.  
No. It is lodgepole pine.
4. Are there three leaves in the bundle?  
Yes. Go to 5.  
No. Go to 9.
5. Are the cones very large with big hooks?  
Yes. Go to 6.  
No. Go to 7.
6. Is the trunk forked and the foliage gray?  
Yes. It is gray pine.  
No. It is Coulter Pine.
7. Are the cones of past seasons found in whorls around the main branches?  
Yes. It is knobcone pine.  
No. Go to 8.
8. Does the cone feel prickly when squeezed between both hands? (*Say gentle Jeffrey, prickly ponderosa.*)  
Yes. It is ponderosa pine  
No. It is Jeffrey pine.
9. Are there 5 needles in a bunch and very long cones with winged seed imprints on the scales?  
Yes. It is sugar pine.  
No. It is limber pine.

**Aleppo** *Pinus halapensis* [planted] at entrance to forest sign, around Evey Canyon, along Mt. Baldy Rd.

Leaf: number of needles=2; color=gray; length=2-5', very slender, yellow-green

Cone: size=2-5"; shape=conical; scale=flat, not prickly; remain on lateral branches several seasons

Bark: color=gray showing red-brown in fissures

Profile: irregularly rounded

**Coulter** *Pinus coulteri* [not native to this area] several planted on road and in village

Leaf: number of needles=3; color=gray-green; length=12-14" erect

Cone: size=12-14"; shape=broadly conical; scale=very prickly, large hooks; near ends of branches

Bark: color=dark brown; texture=furrowed with wide scaly ridges

Profile: broad pyramid, branched to near the base

Elevation range: 2500' - 7500'

Comments: grows at lowest elevation of all pines in the SGM; **heaviest pine cones in world**, nicknamed the "widow maker" for this feature

**gray** *Pinus sabiniana* [planted] at Visitor Center

Leaf: number of needles=3; color=gray; length=12"; drooping

Cone: size=6-10"; shape=conical; scale=very prickly, large hooks

Bark: color=gray to dark brown; texture=vertically furrowed with scaly ridges

Profile: spindly, forked trunk, thin, wispy foliage

Comments: also called foothill or digger pine

**Jeffrey** *Pinus jeffreyi* from the beginning of the switchbacks after Icehouse at 5000' upward, more often on the drier slopes than ponderosa;

Leaf: number of needles=3; color=grayish blue-green; length=5-10"

Cone: size=4-8"; shape=long oval; scale=prickle pointed inward

Bark: color=reddish brown, inner surface pinkish or brownish; texture=narrow plates, deep furrows, jigsaw puzzle flakes

Profile: very tall, columnar, no branches near the base

Elevation range: 5400' - 8500'

Comments: bark sweetly fragrant like vanilla or pineapple; **most common pine in San Gabriels**

**knobcone** *Pinus attenuata* [planted] between tunnels, Spring Hill, Hog Back; burned

Leaf: number of needles=3; color=pale green; length=not more than 6"

Cone: size=3-6"; shape=longer than broad when open; scale=conical knobs with beak-like prickle; lopsided; encircling branches and trunk

Bark: color=brownish gray; texture=shallowly fissured

Profile: slender, scrubby; branches upcurving

Comments: needs fire to open cones

**limber** *Pinus flexilis* from 9000' level on Mt. Baldy Trail

Leaf: number of needles=5; color=dark yellow-green; length=1-2½"; tufted at ends of branches

Cone: size=3-10"; shape=oblong; scale=no prickle; short stalked; seeds have no wings

Bark: color=grayish white to dark brown; texture=plates with thin scales

Profile: broad crown, short trunk; forked branches whorled and upswept

Elevation range: 8500' - 10,000'

Comments: flexible gray branches can be tied in knots; occurs only on Mt. Baden-Powell and Mt. Baldy, the highest elevation of any pine in San Gabriels; the oldest living trees in the ANF

**lodgepole** *Pinus contorta* ssp. *murrayana* from Baldy Notch upward  
Leaf: number of needles=2; color=yellow-green; length= < 2"  
Cone: size=1-2"; shape=globular like a big walnut; scale=short, slender prickles  
Bark: color=gray; texture=cornflakes  
Profile: scraggly and slender  
Elevation range: 7500' - 9350'  
Comments: found only above 7500' in San Gabriels;. Also called tamarack pine

**pinyon** *Pinus monophylla* [on north-facing desert slope of SGM]  
Leaf: number of needles=1; color=gray; length=2"  
Cone: size=3-5"; shape=more or less spherical; scale=no prickle  
Bark: color=dull gray to dark brown; texture=narrow flat ridges to rough and furrowed  
Profile: divided trunk; low and rounded  
Elevation range: 3700' - 6100'  
Comments: nuts edible; only single-leaf pine in world

**ponderosa** *Pinus ponderosa* between Glacier area and Manker Flat on the more level sites around 6000'  
Leaf: number of needles=3; color=dark yellow-green; length=5-10"  
Cone: size=2-5"; shape=oval; scale=prickle points outward  
Bark: color=yellowish brown, inner surface is sulfur yellow; texture=broad plates with shallow furrows and jigsaw puzzle scales  
Profile: tall, columnar  
Elevation range: 5200' - 5500'  
Comments: also called western yellow pine.

**sugar** *Pinus lambertiana* from north-facing Icehouse slopes about 5500' upward  
Leaf: number of needles=5; color=deep green; length=2½-4"  
Cone: size=12-18"; shape=cylindrical; scale=edge thin and knife-edged; long stalked; seeds leave large winged imprint on scales  
Bark: color=grayish to purplish-brown; texture=ridges with thin scales  
Profile: ragged and uneven; horizontal branches with cones at tips  
Elevation range: 6000' - 9800'  
Comments: **tallest pine tree and longest pine cones in world**; often glistening with sugary sap

### PINE MUSIC

*"The needles of the pine act like strings of an aeolian harp; and the wind, in passing through the tree, sets them in vibration, making a sighing sound which seems to the listener like the voice of the tree. Therefore, the pine is the most companionable of all our trees and, to one who observes them closely, each tree has its own tones and whispers a different story."*

—page 672, *Handbook of Nature Study*