

Eastern White Pine

COOL FACTS:

Scientific name:	Pinus strobus
Average height:	40 meters
Average life span:	400 yrs
Did you know?	It is the provincial tree for Ontario.



PHYSIOLOGY

The bark of a young tree is smooth and dark green. It turns a dark greyish brown and has broad thick ridges that are 2-5 cm thick as it ages. The buds are reddish-brown, pointed, and often encrusted with white resin. It has thin needles that are about 6-12 cm long that grow in bunches of five. They also produce pine cones that can grow 8-20 cm long and bare two winged seeds. Cone production peaks every 3-5 year and the seeds are self-fertilizing.

HABITAT/ BEHAVIOR

The Eastern White Pine can grow in any soil but prefers sandy soil and full sunlight. Eastern White Pine's range from western Ontario to the Atlantic Provinces. It is the tallest type of evergreen tree in Ontario.

The seeds of Eastern White Pine are eaten by birds and small mammals and, in dense groupings, trees can provide shelter for birds and wildlife, especially owls.

Today the main uses for this tree are for furniture and Christmas Trees.

PROTECTION/THREATS

Eastern White Pine is susceptible to several native and introduced pests and diseases. The most serious of these are white pine blister rust (fungus) and white pine weevil (insect). It can cause yellowing and dying foliage. The disease may not be fatal and further spread may be halted by pruning the infected branch.

Eastern White Pine weevil is an insect that is native to North America and damages eastern white pine by attacking their leading shoot at the tip of the tree. Once this shoot is destroyed, the tree's side shoots begin to grow upward, thus creating a forked trunk and a deformed tree.

MORE COOL FACTS:

The Iroquois would use the resin from this plant, while mixing it with beeswax, to seal their canoes.

Eastern White Pine needles contain five times the amount of Vitamin C (by weight) of lemons[citation needed] and make an excellent herbal tea.