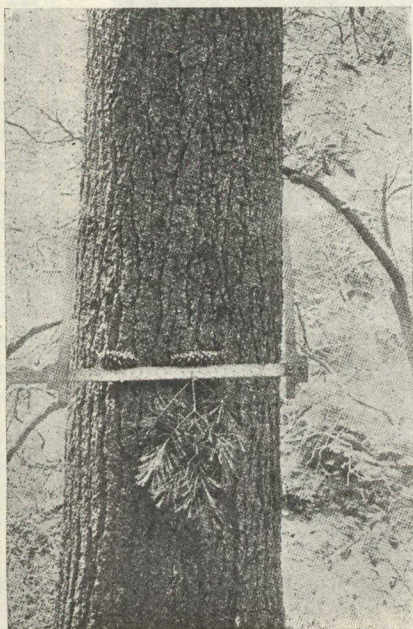


How to Know the Pines

A Five-minute Talk on the White, Red and Jack Pine—How to tell Them Apart—Uses We Make of Them.

By B. R. Morton, Ottawa.



WHITE PINE BARK

On young trunks it is greenish brown in color and quite smooth. Later it becomes greyish brown and is roughened by shallow broad ridges.

THE white pine (*Pinus strobus*) is one of our most beautiful evergreens. It is the tallest and most stately tree in our eastern forests. Where it has a chance to develop under favorable conditions it frequently attains a height of 150 feet and more and a diameter of 3 to 5 feet. When young, it has a rather symmetrical, conical form sending out its branches at right angles to the trunk in more or less regular whorls of five. This regular branching is not so apparent in older trees especially when they have been growing in dense stands. The lower branches are then usually dead and have dropped off leaving a long clear trunk with a rather flattened top.

How to Tell a White Pine

The white pine can be distinguished with very little difficulty from any of its associated evergreens. Its leaves which are needle-like, soft and delicate, from 3 to 5 inches long and of a clear green colour are borne in little cluster or bundles. If we pluck these little bundles and examine them carefully it will be found that each is made up of exactly five needles held together with a paper-

like wrapper at the base. No other tree growing in our forest from the Atlantic to Manitoba has five needles in a bundle. It is only necessary to recall that the first word of its name 'white' has five letters to remember one of the most distinguishing points of this tree.

Knowing Red and Jack Pine

The red pine (*Pinus resinosa*) and the jack pine (*Pinus Banksiana*) both of which occur within the range of the white pine have but two leaves in a bundle. The red pine leaves are two to three times as long as those of either the white or the jack pine and very much coarser than those of the former tree.

The bark of the white pine when young is quite smooth and as a rule greenish-brown in colour. On older trees it is divided into continuous ridges and has a dark gray colour. On red pines the bark is separated into broad irregular flaky scales and of an intensely reddish brown colour. From the colour of its bark the tree gets one of its common names. It might be mentioned here that red pine also commonly goes by the name of Norway pine. The name, however, is an unfortunate choice since it has little or no real significance; the tree is not a native of Norway or of any country in Europe.

Examine the cones!

The cones of the white pine are larger than those of any eastern evergreen. They are from 5 to 10 inches long, slender, slightly curved and stalked. Squirrels collect large quantities and hide them for the seed they contain. The red pine cones are very much shorter than those of the white being from 2 to 2½ inches long and spherical in shape when dry and open.

Decorative planting

Both the white and the red pine may be used to advantage in decorative planting. They are hardy, rapid growing and beautiful at all seasons. Because of the large size they attain they are not as well suited for planting on small city lawns as they are for larger grounds, country places, golf grounds and camp sites. The white pine due to its finer branching and delicate needles has a softer appear-



RED PINE BARK

Reddish-brown in color, it separates into broad, irregular, flaky scales. The trunk has a rubbed or scraped appearance. The bark is thick and resists fire fairly well.

ance than the red pine which is more rugged looking with its massive clusters of dark green coarse needles.

How Pine is Used.

White pine produces one of our most valuable woods. It is soft, light, strong in relation to its weight, compact and fairly durable. It has a straight, fine even grain and is not splintery. Its most valuable properties are the ease with which it is worked and the fact that it checks or shrinks but little. It is one of the best woods for building purposes since it can be used to advantage in every part of a building. One of the most exacting uses to which white pine is put is in the making of patterns for foundry castings. For this purpose it is necessary to have wood which cuts easily with or across the grain and above all holds its shape without swelling or shrinking. White pine has these qualities to a greater extent than any other wood.

Red pine is also a valuable lumber producer. The wood, however, is harder, more resinous and somewhat darker than that of the white pine. It is also rather coarse in the grain.