

# 10. White Pine Flagging

Dr. Philip C. Walker  
Memorial  
Botanical Trail



White pine (*Pinus strobus*) is the largest northeastern conifer. This magnificent evergreen tree has a straight trunk and a crown of horizontal branches. A new whorl of branches is added each year, and the tree becomes broad and irregular with age. The 4-8" cones are yellow-brown in color and are narrowly cylindrical. The easiest way to identify a white pine is to look at the needles, which are borne in clumps along the branch. Most of these clumps contain five needles, one needle for each letter in its name W-H-I-T-E.



Winds that come from a constant direction can shape the trees so they appear crooked and stunted. This is because the branches on the lee side of the tree grow faster than the branches on the windward side of the tree. This is called the flag tree effect.

