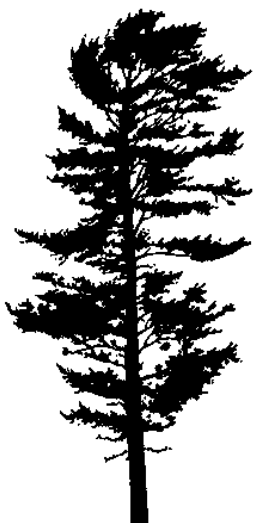


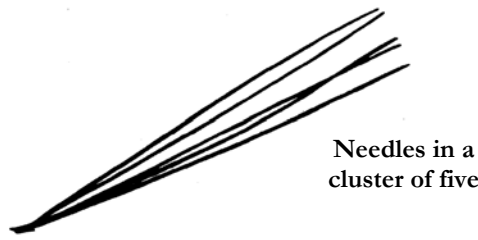
HAVE YOU SEEN THESE RARE TREES ?

Many plant species reach the western edge of their range in Southeastern Manitoba and are not seen in other parts of the province. Researchers from the Manitoba Conservation Data Centre (CDC) are trying to learn more about three tree species that occur in the Whiteshell and Nopiming areas. The CDC's mandate is to collect, maintain and provide information on the province's biodiversity. Your assistance is requested to collect information on these three species in order to better understand their range and abundance in Manitoba. If you see any of the trees described below, CDC staff would like to hear from you.



EASTERN WHITE PINE (*Pinus strobus*)

Eastern white pine is an evergreen tree that is considered rare in Manitoba. It just reaches the southeast corner of the province and prefers dry, fertile, sandy soil. It reaches an average height of 22 metres (72 feet) and often forms an irregular crown when grown in the open, whereas in closed stands the crown tends to be narrower. The bark of mature trees is grey-brown and deeply furrowed.

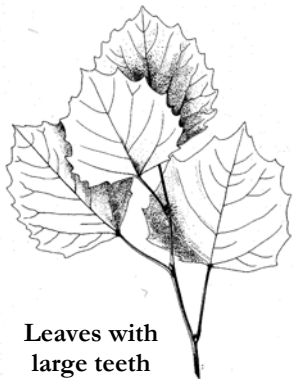


Needles in a cluster of five

Seed cone



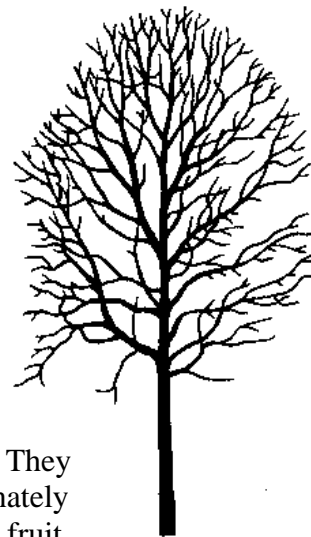
This is the only pine species in Manitoba that bears needles in clusters of five. They are pale green and reach 3 to 13 cm (1 to 5 inches) long. The narrow seed cones hang from branches in clusters and reach 7 to 20 cm (3 to 8 inches). This species is easily distinguishable from the more common jack pine (*Pinus banksiana*), which has shorter needles arranged in pairs and shorter, curved cones also arranged in pairs.



Leaves with large teeth

LARGE-TOOTH ASPEN (*Populus grandidentata*)

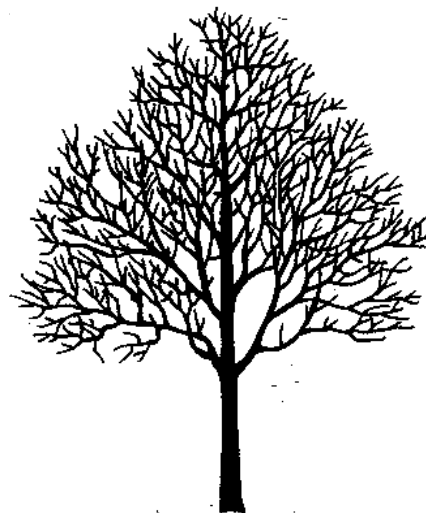
Large-tooth aspen is a deciduous tree that is considered rare in Manitoba. It has only been recorded from the southeast along the Manitoba-Ontario border. This tree may be found at drier sites as with eastern white pine, but also occurs in moist habitats along river beds. It reaches an average height of 19 metres (62 feet). The bark of young trees is greenish-grey becoming brown and furrowed with maturity.



The leaves are egg-shaped with 5 to 15 large, irregular teeth along each edge. They reach 5 to 12 cm (2 to 5 inches) in length on flat stems and are arranged alternately along the branches. As with other members of the willow family, flowers and fruit form hanging catkins that appear before leaves in early spring. Unlike other *Populus* species found in Manitoba, the leaf buds that appear in spring are covered with fine, grey hairs. White poplar (*Populus alba*) is a similar species that has been introduced from Europe but its leaf stems are round rather than flattened. A good time to find large-tooth aspen is in the rain when the wet bark appears to have an orange tinge.

HOP HORNBEAM / IRONWOOD (*Ostrya virginiana*)

Hop-hornbeam, also known as ironwood, is a small eastern North American tree that reaches the western edge of its distribution in south-eastern and south-central Manitoba. It is normally found in rich, well-drained soils in moist habitats. In the Whiteshell and Nopiming areas the species is often found on ridge tops or slopes with eastern white pine. Trees can reach a height of up to 12 metres (40 feet), but in Manitoba usually appear as tall shrubs in the forest understory. This member of the birch family is most easily recognized by its shaggy bark, which is grayish-brown with narrow vertical strips that are loose at both ends.



Fruit cluster at branch tip

The leaves are a dark yellowish green, hairy below, oval in outline tapering to a long sharp tip and have fine irregular teeth along the edges. They reach 7 to 12 cm (3 to 5 inches) long and are arranged alternately in two rows along slender, reddish brown, shiny twigs. Flowering catkins appear in early spring. The fruit develops in clusters of small inflated, papery sacs resembling those of hops.

Please report observations to the CDC and include as much of the following information as you can:

What

Which species do you believe the plant to be, how confident are you and why?

Where

Be as specific as possible. Use odometer readings to a known landmark or note the location on an existing or hand-drawn map.

When

Date(s) of observation.

Population Description

How many trees are there (specify if precise count or estimate). How large of an area do the trees cover and what is the distribution pattern (are they spread out or in clumps?).

Habitat

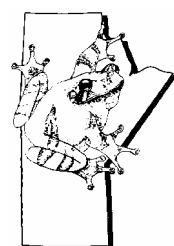
What is the groundcover like (rocky, mossy, etc.)? If on a slope what direction is it facing? What other vegetation is growing in the area? Are the trees in full sun or shaded by other? Do you see any type of disturbance or threat to the population?

Your Contact Information

Name, address, phone number, and e-mail.

Take a picture if possible but **DO NOT** remove any plants! It is illegal to collect plants in a provincial park without first obtaining a permit.

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For more information about the CDC and rare species in Manitoba please visit:

<http://web2.gov.mb.ca/conservation/cdc/>

You may also use our on-line rare species reporting form!

Image credits:

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