

Pinus Strobus: White Pine

The properties of White Pine

White Pine (*Pinus Strobus*) is native and unique to the eastern United States, dating back for the Great Lakes region to about 10,000 years ago. Today, only 0.65% of the original density remains.

Longevity: 280-600 years in old growth forests (average age: 500 years).

Size: Tallest tree in Eastern North America (150-250 feet tall and 2-4 feet in diameter); grows straight despite exposure to high winds.

Evergreen: Needles coated by resin to protect it from weather changes and animals.

Growth conditions: Wide range of soils, low light requirements when young, resistant to climate shifts, tolerant of low intensity fires.

Wood: Split resistant, easy to work with.

Leaves: The only conifer with needles clustered in a bundles of five.

Pine Cones: Male and female cones on the same tree.

Roots: Three to five lateral roots, growing in well drained soils.

Biodiversity: Able to grow in association with all plant species; shaggy crowns are preferred nesting for wide wing span birds, such as eagles.

The Tree of the Great Long Leaves



Eagle: Sits atop of the tree, chosen for its superior vision to watch for the signs of aggression and unhealthy mind.

Pine Cone: Model for leadership: Male chiefs and female clanmothers.

Branches: Spread outwards to provide shade/shelter for those individual and nations seeking protection under the message of peace.

Needles: A symbol of the union between the original Five Nations (Mohawks, Oneidas, Onondagas, Cayugas and Senecas).

Trunk: A symbol of confederacy chiefs as they support the nations and individuals; as well as a symbol of singlemindedness or unanimity.

Roots: Four white roots of peace spreading in four directions towards other nations and individuals sharing or willing to accept the message of peace.

Uprooting: To bury the weapons of war underneath the tree and allow the stream below to take them away from future generations.

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