

EASTERN WHITE PINE

Pinus strobus

Eastern White Pine is the largest of the northeastern conifers. From the beginning of logging in this country, it has been a most valuable species. White Pine grows from 80-100 feet in height and 2-3 feet in diameter. Small trees have broadly conical crowns. As the tree matures, the crowns are composed of several nearly horizontal or ascending branches, gracefully plum-like in outline and very distinctive in comparison with other associated conifers. The long graceful horizontal branches are irregular in outline. Eastern White Pine grows on many different sites from dry rocky ridges to wet sphagnum bogs. White Pines have reached ages of over 500 years, and are found in old growth forests in northern Pennsylvania.



The fruit or cones are large in size from 4-8 inches in length, slender, with thin scales, and often dotted with sap. The trees start to produce cones at an early age, but good seed production occurs when the trees are 20-30 years old. The 4" long needles are straight, slender, and form triangular clusters of five, angled toward branch tips. In October, the end needles turn brown and drop, and new green growth replaces the dropped needles. The male flowers are yellow, the female are pink. They appear in separate clusters on the young shoots in early summer. The mature bark is dark gray, often tinged with purple and slightly to conspicuously furrowed.



Four mature Eastern White Pine grow along the western side of Trinity Avenue close to the Market Street wall; and a line of seven mature Eastern White Pine grow on the eastern side of Trinity Avenue from 14th Street east toward 12th Street. As part of the Arbor Day plantings of 2012, six Eastern White Pine were planted to the east of the chapel on Mt. Laurel Avenue about where 13th Street would intersect the property. The horizontal branches, when they become too heavy with snow, snap off from the tree during the winter.

