KEY to the Maryland Native Conifers 11-10-15

**Leaves (needles) in bundles: Pine Family**

**Needles in bundles of 2-5 with a basal sheath: *Pinus*, Pine**

Needles 5 per bundle…………………………………………………………………………………………..……*Pinus strobus*, white pine

Needles 3 per bundle

Needles abruptly sharp-pointed, mostly 7-14 cm long, on well-drained soil.………………*Pinus rigida*, pitch pine

Needles tapering at the tips, mostly 15-25 cm long

Cones 6-12 cm long, narrowly ovoid to cylindrical……………………………………….……. *Pinus taeda*, loblolly pine

Cones 4-6 cm long, broadly ovoid with rounded tips, wet soil ……………………….… *Pinus serotina*, pond pine

Needles in 2s and 3s per bundle

Needles 7-13 cm long; weak, slender prickles on cones………..…………………….... *Pinus echinata*, short-leaf pine

Needles dark green, 3-7 cm long; stout prickles on cones………………………*Pinus pungens*, table-mountain pine

Needles 2 per bundle

Needles 12 cm or longer, flexible; mature cone with no prickles……*Pinus resinosa*, red pine, very uncommon

Needles 8 cm long or less, usually yellowish green; prickles slender ………...…….*Pinus virginiana*, Virginia pine

**Needles in bundles of many more than 5, with no basal sheath**……………….*Larix laricina*, American larch, rare

**Leaves not in bundles: Cypress Family or Yew Family**

**Leaves opposite or in whorls**

Branchlets flat and fan-like, mature cones woody or leathery

Cones globose, scales not overlapping; in coastal plain swamps & bogs………..….*Chamaecyparis thyoides*, Atlantic white-cedar

Cones elongate, scales overlapping, not coastal plain…….*Thuja occidentalis*, Northern white cedar, rare

Branchlets bushy, not fan-like, square in X-section, mature cones berry-like..……………………….…….*Juniperus virginiana*, Eastern redcedar

**Leaves (needles) alternate**

Needles flat, soft, deciduous, primarily coastal plain……………………………...*Taxodium distichum*, bald cypress

Needles flat, stiff, evergreen

Mature cones dry, brown and woody

Needles attached directly to the twig, cones erect…………..…….……..….*Abies balsamea*. balsam fir, rare

Needles on a short persistent base, cones drooping……………………..*Tsuga canadensis*, Eastern hemlock

Mature cones red and berry-like……..............………….…*Taxus canadensis*, American yew, very uncommon

Needles 4-angled in cross-section

Leaves blue-green and waxy, skunky odor when crushed….…...*Picea glauca*, white spruce, uncommon

Leaves green, not waxy, no unpleasant odor……………….……….….…*Picea rubens*, red spruce, uncommon