

Jeffrey pine



◀ serpentine soil is a favored medium for this species to compete with other conifers

▼ cones are much larger than those of ponderosa pines



Bark: orange-red and deeply furrowed in mature trees, flaking off into “puzzle pieces” forming piles at base like the sugar and Ponderosa pine; becomes paler with elevation and exposure; sweet smell (butterscotch) at the right time of year
Needles: 3 per bundle, 5”-10”, dark blue-green; often appear bushier than those of ponderosa; when broken smell like pineapple
Cones: up to twice the size (5”-10”) of ponderosa pine, with recurved points on tips of scales, therefore not prickly in hand.
Habitat: Exposed serpentine ridges of any mountain elevation and exposure, dominant from 500 to 7000 feet

Ponderosa pine



◀ granite of the Trinity Alps

▼ Jeffrey cone (left) dwarfs the cone of the ponderosa (right)



Bark: brown to black in youth, reddish-brown in maturity with broad, scaly plates but lighter and less furrowed than the Jeffrey, flaky “puzzle pieces” with age; smells like vanilla
Needles: 3 per bundle, highly variable, 5”-10” depending on exposure, yellowish green, pitchy smell when broken open
Cones: smaller than the Jeffrey, rounder in shape, and 3”-5”; sharp points on the end of each scale
Habitat: In the Klamath, lower elevation creeks and river valleys but also montane in open or dense forests to 6000 feet with the right soil and exposure, generally forming thicker forests than Jeffrey pine