

Balsam Fir

Abies balsamea

Height: up to 18 meters

Diameter: 30-50 centimetres

Distinguishing feature: This tree has the perfect Christmas tree shape. The bark is gray with raised resin blisters.

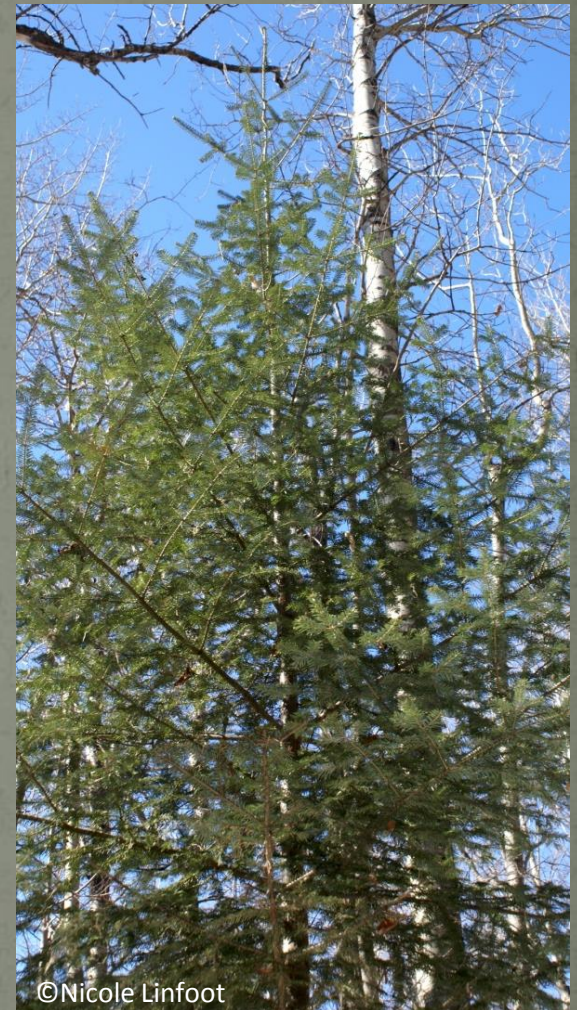
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Historical- Aboriginal people used the wood to make canoe paddles. The resin was used to caulk the seams in birch bark canoes.

Commercial- Balsam Fir trees are used as pulpwood, lumber and Christmas trees. Wreaths and balsam pillows are bought for their aromatic foliage. Resin is used for microscopic slides and optical cement.

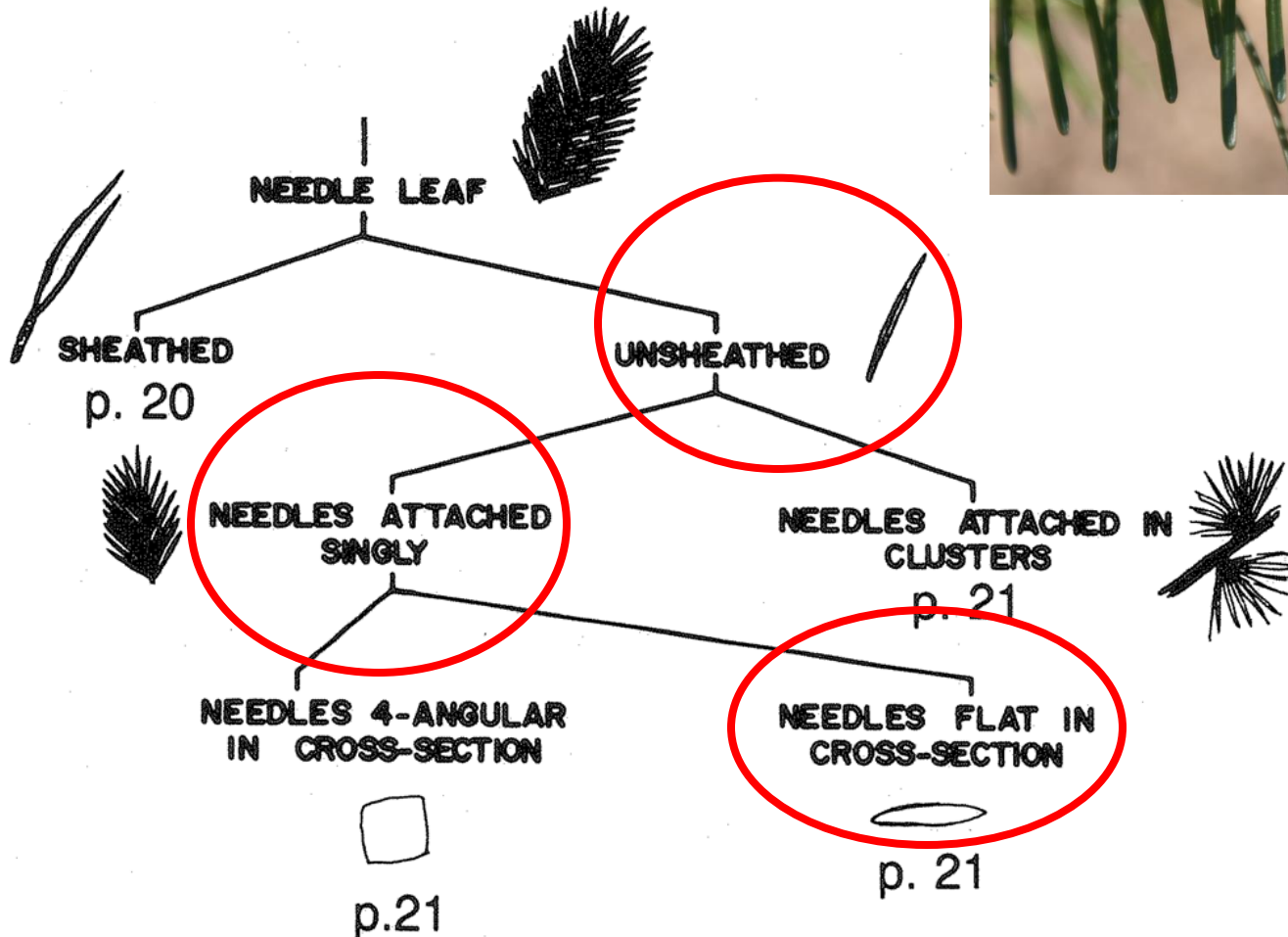
Natural - Resin protects the tree from invading insects and disease by flowing and hardening over any breaks in the bark. Resin in the seed coats may deter mice and squirrels from eating them. Balsam fir usually appears late in the succession of a forest.

Medicinal- The Cree used the clear fragrant resin to treat insect bites, boils, scabies, other infections and skin sores.



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Identification



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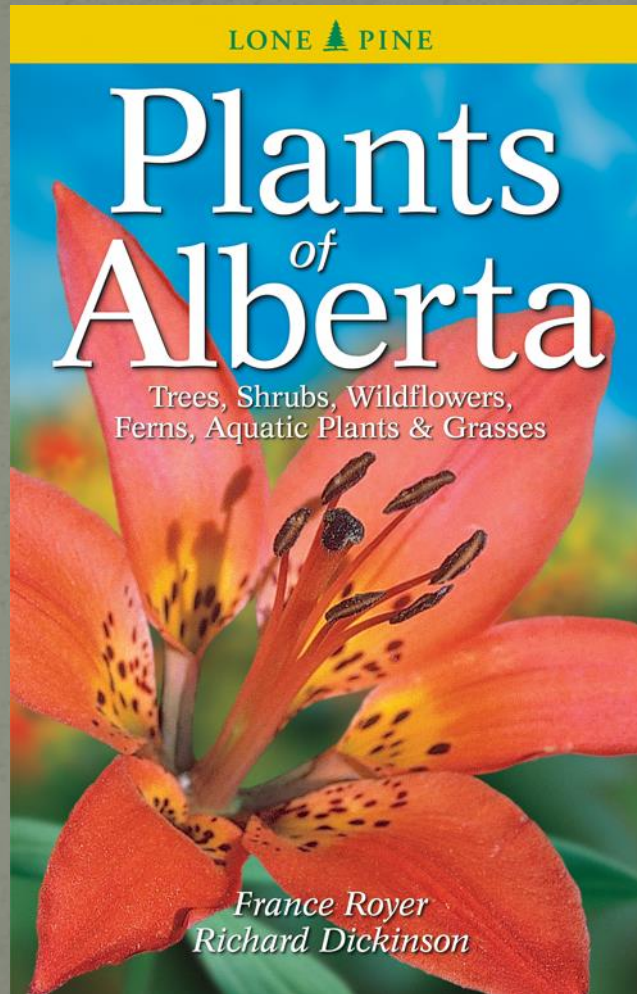
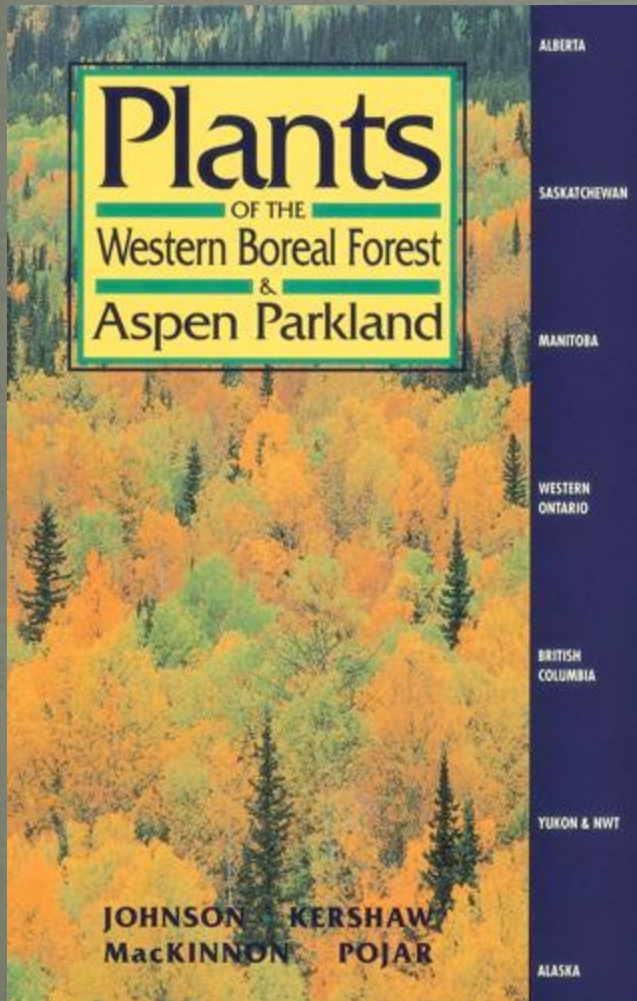
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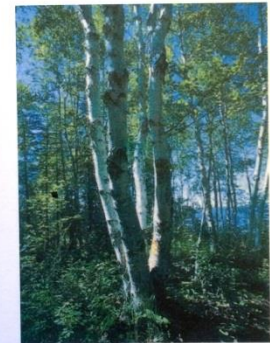
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Resources



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