

White Spruce

Picea glauca

Height: 7-20 meters

Diameter: 30-60 centimetres

Distinguishing feature: This evergreen tree has needles that are square in cross-section

USES

Historical-

The branches were traditionally used by North American natives for lean-tos and windbreaks. Spruce roots were used in the making of baskets. Spruce pitch was often chewed like candy although it is not as popular today.

Commercial-

White spruce wood is used for construction lumber, veneer, newsprint, paper products. Excellent for canoe frames, paddles and snowshoes. Resin is used today in drugs, chewing gum and confections.

Natural -

Various kinds of wildlife including deer, grouse and rabbits browse on the foliage in the winter. Birds eat the seeds from the soft spruce cone.

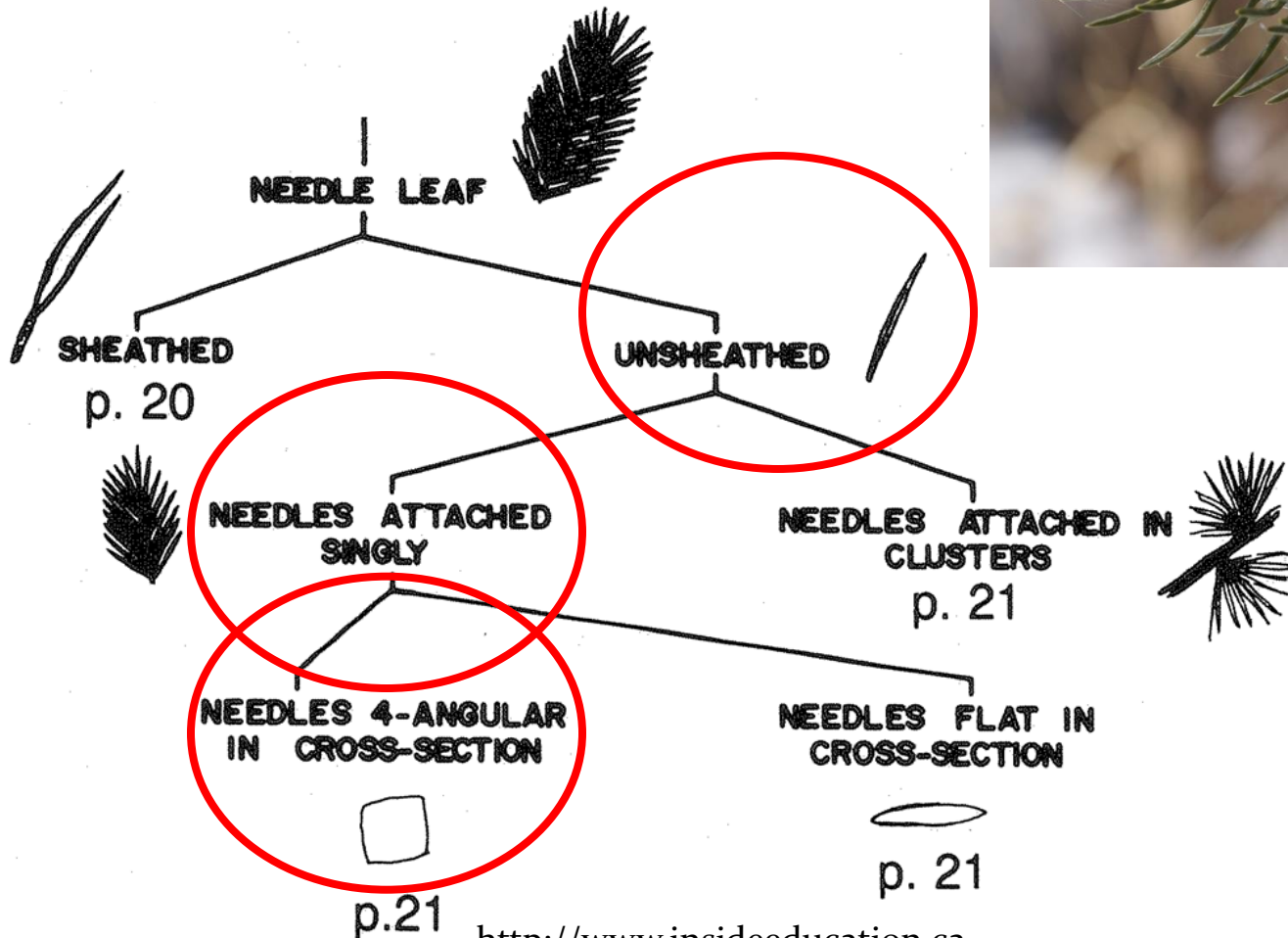
Medicinal-

Chipewyan mixed spruce pitch with a rich animal fat to make a salve for sores, infections, insect bites, boils, chapped hands, scratches and cuts. Crews travelling with Captain James Cook received a ration of Spruce Beer, every other day, to prevent scurvy.



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Identification



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Guide to the
Common Native
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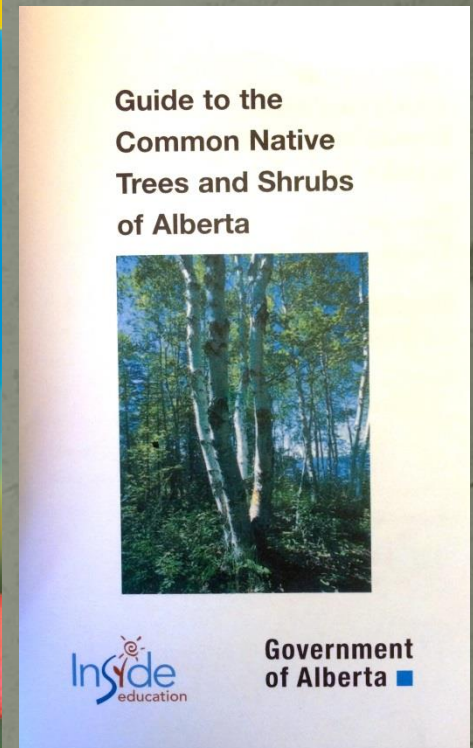
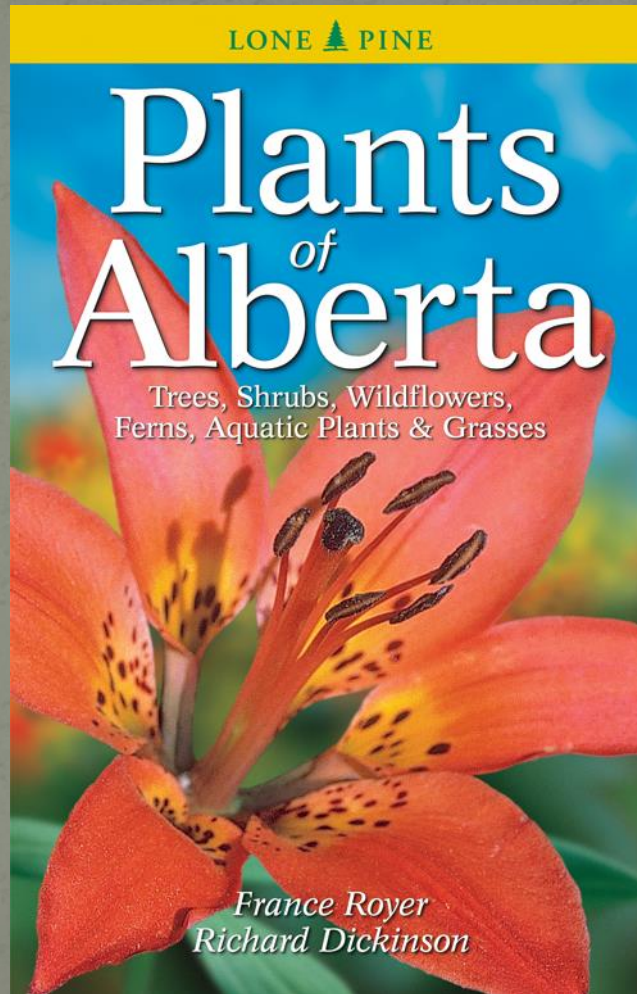
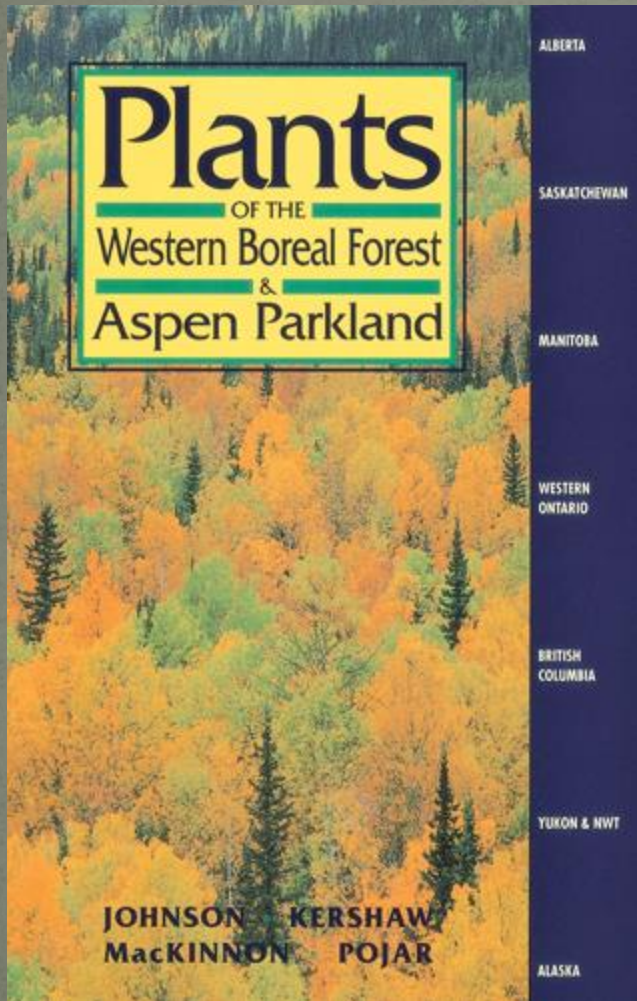
LESSER SLAVE
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Resources



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