



NATIVE TREE IDENTIFICATION

Helpful tips on how to identify five native trees commonly found in the Carson City area and Northern Nevada.



Notice the scales pointing inward, giving it the name, "Gentle Jeffrey"



"GENTLE" JEFFREY

Pinus jeffreyi

This pine tree is found on the west side of Carson City and can be identified by the pine cones' size and shape. The cones are larger than ponderosas' and the scales point inward which make it easier to hold. The trees can grow up to 200 feet tall and give off a unique smell that some believe resembles vanilla, pineapple or butterscotch.

"PRICKLY" PONDEROSA

Pinus ponderosa

This pine closely resembles its cousin, the Jeffrey, which makes it difficult to tell them apart. Both have similar bark and long needles in bunches of three. Ponderosa cones'; however, have scales that point outward which poke you when you pick them up. The cones are also smaller in size and often darker in color.



These scales often point outward, giving it the name, "Prickly Ponderosa"



The cones are blue-grey in color and resemble berries. Don't try eating these though.



WESTERN JUNIPER

Juniperus occidentalis

The Western Juniper can be found atop Prison Hill and at the Disc Golf Course. They grow between 15 and 30 feet tall. They are easily identifiable by their cones which resemble berries that are blue-grey in color. These trees grow very slowly and can be up to 1000 years old! The needles are 1-2 inches long and don't grow in bunches.

PINYON PINE

Pinus monophylla

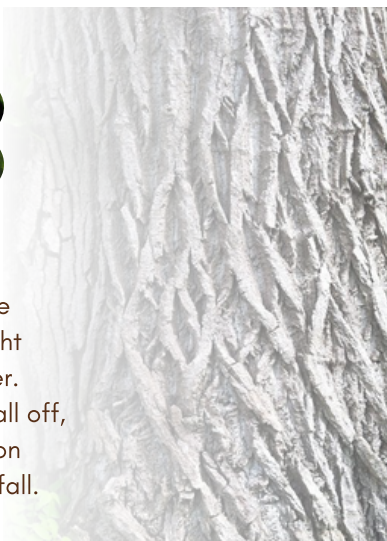
These pines are small, only growing about 20 feet tall. The needles are 1-2 inches long and the tree produces small, brown, rose-like cones that contain delicious pine nuts. The trees often resemble bushes due to their branches growing as wide as it is tall. They can be found in the same areas as the Junipers in habitats called "Pinyon-Juniper Woodlands".



The cones hold the famous pine nuts that were enjoyed by Native Americans and still treasured today!



The leaves resemble hearts and are bright green in the summer. When the flowers fall off, they resemble cotton and feels like snowfall.



FREMONT COTTONWOOD

Populus fremontii

You can find these large deciduous trees along the Carson River. Spotting these in the desert from a distance would tell early settlers where the water was as they often grow near riparian zones. The trees are known for their fuzzy, cotton-like, flowers that float down in late spring and early summer. Their bark is smooth when young and deeply fissured with white cracks when old. The trees can grow to be 100 feet tall!