



**Ponderosa Pine**, *Pinus ponderosa*, also called western yellow pine is the most widely distributed and common pine in North America.

Needles are long and appear in bundles of three. Large cones ranging from 2-6 inches produce seeds that are prized by many species of birds and mammals such as squirrels. Ponderosa bark is blackish, rough and furrowed in ridges often turning reddish with age and can grow to be quite thick offering protection from fire damage.

Insects/Diseases: The most destructive insect is by far the Mountain Pine Beetle, *Dendroctonus*, with *Ips* species being the second in destructiveness, other insects such as pine tip moths and gouty pitch midge can pine buds and shoots of primarily young trees. Dwarf mistletoe is ponderosa pine's most widespread disease.