

Key 3. Gymnosperm Plant Families of Newfoundland and Labrador

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- 1a. Trees, usually erect and tall, to 60+ metres tall; sometimes dwarfed as wind- or frost-pruned krummholz (known locally as tuckamoor); leaves needle-like, linear, 1–18 cm long; reproductive structures are borne in scaly cones; pollen cones have papery scales and fall off after pollen is shed; seeds cones become woody at maturity.**Pinaceae**
- 1b. Low or dwarf shrubs, spreading or creeping along the ground, usually <2 metres tall in our province; leaves needle-like or scale-like, to 2.5 cm long; seeds borne in resinous berry-like cones or partially enclosed within a fleshy red aril. **2**
 - 2a. Needles concave, stiff, to 1.5 cm long, or scaly and 4-ranked, to 2 mm long, overlapping for about 1/3 of their length; seeds are borne in globose to ovoid cones in which the scales fuse together, producing a leathery, berry-like cone, which matures from yellow to glaucous blue, then bluish-black; cones and seeds mature in 2 years. **Cupressaceae** (*Juniperus*)
 - 2b. Needles flat, soft, 1–2.5 cm long, needle bases decurrent along the green stem; reproductive structures are produced in modified cones, called strobili (singular: strobilus), which have several thin scaly bracts subtending the pollen- or seed-producing structures; the mature female strobilus has a single seed surrounded by a cup-shaped, fleshy red aril, open at the top.**Taxaceae** (*Taxus canadensis*)