**Blue Spruce**

This tree has springy branches and a heathery, gray-green color. The needles stick out all around each twig, and beware: they are short and strong, and they may be pretty sharp! You can find versions of this species throughout several western and northwestern states, especially Wyoming, Colorado, and Utah.

**Balsam Fir**

This tree, which grows across the northern United States and into Canada, is an old favorite at Christmastime. Its needles are short, shiny, and a little poky, and they are short—only about ¾” to 1” long. A balsam fir’s branches grow in a circular pattern, and they point upward—a “perky” look. Balsam firs are famous for their wonderful piney smell and their deep green color.

**Douglas Fir**

This tree can tower over others in the forest! When you cut a small one for Christmas, you’ll get flat needles that grow all around each branch. Even though they are 1-1/2 inches long, they are soft and flexible. They are a deep, blue-green and if you pick them they’ll smell great. When Douglas Firs are sold in tree lots, they’re often trimmed to a cone shape, because their outer branches can tend to droop a little, which isn’t so great for big ornaments!

**Virginia Pine**

In nature, these trees grow all through the eastern states, and they’re especially popular in the south. Their needles are short and slender (1-1-1/2” inches) and they come bundled in pairs. Virginia pines are lighter colored than some of their tree cousins—a delicate yellow-green. In nature, you can find them growing along the Eastern Seaboard. As Christmas trees, they’re especially popular in the South.

**White Pine**

These trees have flexible needles that usually come in bunches of five. They’re long, too—2-3 inches on young Christmas trees, and longer on trees in the forest. In the East, they were once really important for Native Americans, who used their resin for baskets and boats. They even ate white pine bark and used it for medicines! Later, east coast shipbuilders used their tall trunks for ship masts. Versions of white pine can be found all through the eastern states and in the West.