Dichotomous Key: Evergreen Plants in Newfoundland and Labrador

Botanists in Training

This simple dichotomous key was developed by Dr. M.A.J. Collins and published in the booklet *Winter Ecology (*Oxen Pond Botanic Park, Memorial University of Newfoundland, 1976). It is a very useful tool when learning to identify some common evergreen shrubs and trees in Newfoundland and Labrador.

1.	a.	Normally trees, cones often present	2
	b.	Normally shrubs, cones absent	6
2.	a.	Needles very long and thin 5cm + ...	3
	b.	Needles shorter than 2.5cm	4
3.	a.	Needles in pairs from a common base	**Red Pine**
	b.	Needles in 5's from a common base	**White Pine**
4.	a.	Needles less than 1.2 cm narrow, bark without resin blobs, cones drooping	5
	b.	Needles more than 1.2 cm wider, bark covered with resin bubbles, cones erect	**Balsam Fir**
5.	a.	Twigs covered with brown hair, cones almost spherical	**Black Spruce**
	b.	Twigs hairless, cones long 3.8 cm + ...	**White Spruce**
6.	a.	Needles thin and sharp, painted green above and white below	**Dwarf Juniper**
	b.	Leaves not sharp needled	7
7.	a.	Leaves green above, covered with hairs below	8
	b.	Leaves green above and below	9
8.	a.	Leaves twice as long as broad, underside covered with rust colored hairs	**Labrador Tea**
	b.	Leaves at least 4 times as long as broad, underside covered with white hairs	**Bog Laurel**
9.	a.	Leaves bright green, waxy in appearance, less than 1.2 cm wide	**Leatherleaf**
	b.	Leaves dull green, oval shaped, quite often with brown patches on leaves	**Sheep Laurel**

Reference:

Collins, Dr. M.A.J. 1976. *Winter Ecology*. Oxen Pond Botanic Park, Memorial University of Newfoundland.