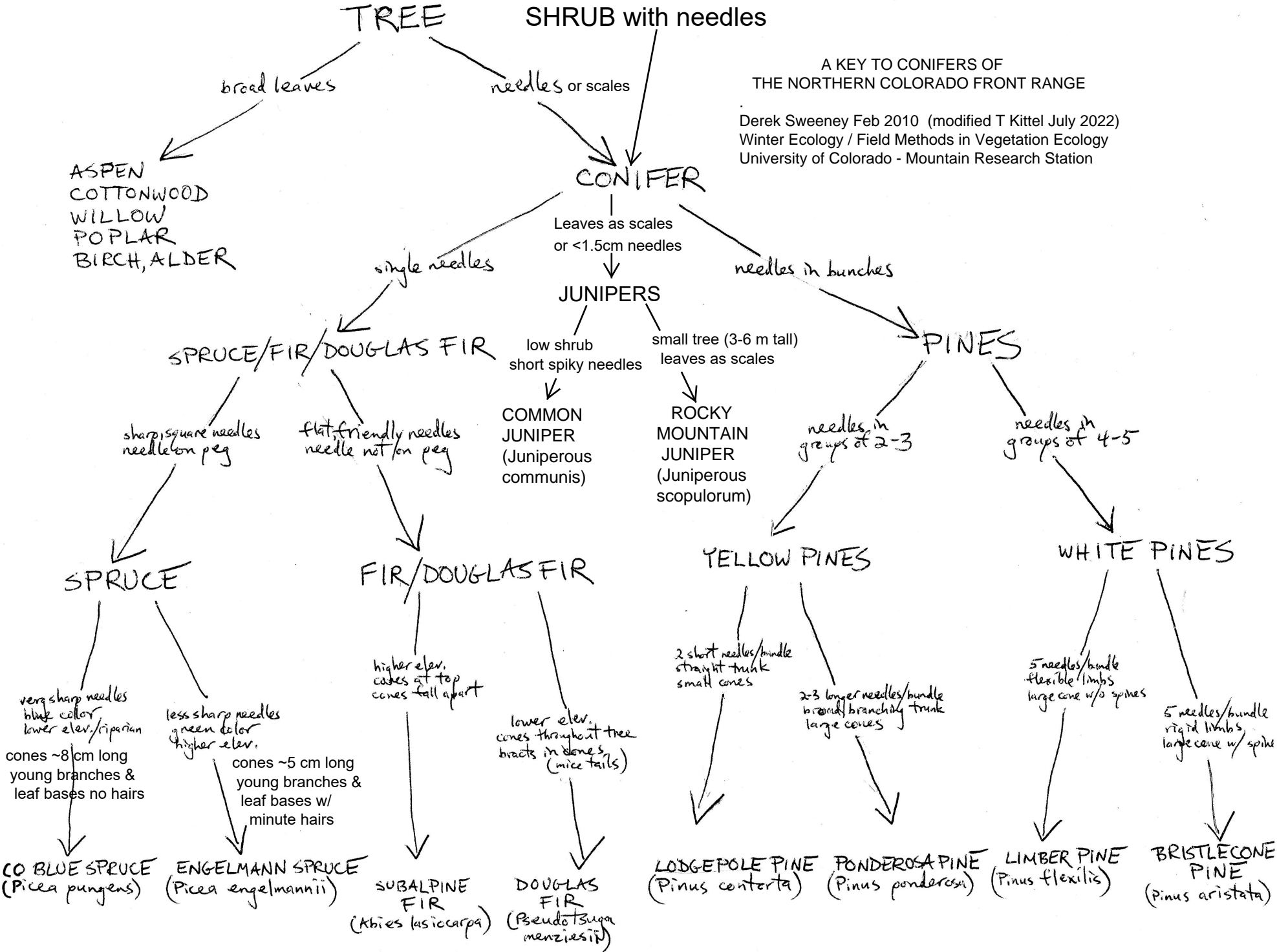


A KEY TO CONIFERS OF THE NORTHERN COLORADO FRONT RANGE

Derek Sweeney Feb 2010 (modified T Kittel July 2022)  
 Winter Ecology / Field Methods in Vegetation Ecology  
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**Spruce: Englemann Spruce (*Picea engelmannii*)**

Needles: single, sharp-pointed, attach on woody pedicles. Cones: Small, Clustered at top of tree, about ~5 cm long, scales rounded, thin. Bark: Rough medium size “jigsaw puzzle pieces”



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**Fir: Subalpine Fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*)**

Needles: rounded tip, attach directly to branch, leaf scar round. Cones: not woody, do not persist, sit upright on top of tree, may see the center stalk remaining. Bark: Relatively smooth, white, becomes rough and furrowed with age.



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**Fir: Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)**

Needles: Blunt tipped, stalked at base, leaf scar elliptical. Cones have three-prong bracts “mouse tails”. Bark: becomes dark brown and furrowed with age.



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**Pine: Lodgepole Pine (*Pinus contorta*)**

Needles: two per sheathed bundle, short. Cones bristle tipped. Bark very rough with small “jigsaw” pieces.



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**Pine: Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*)**

Needles: 2-3 per bundle, 10-18 cm long. Cones 7-12 cm long, Bark very large jigsaw puzzle pieces.



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**Pine: Limber Pine (*Pinus flexilis*)**

Needles: 4-5 needles per bundle, Cones thick scaled, Bark large pattern rough. Branches angle up.

