

High Allegheny Hemlock Conservation Partnership

Eastern Hemlock Identification Guide



General

Broadly pyramidal silhouette, feathery appearance, 175ft tall and drooping branches



Habitat

Eastern Hemlocks grow in cool, moist, well-drained soils typically along streams and rivers. These trees can be found growing in mixed hardwood or conifer stands as well as solid hemlock stands.



Cones

Mature cones are brown, with few scales while immature cones are green and pendant shaped. Typically ½ inch in length.



Needles

Flat, dark green, evergreen needles that are typically ½-¾ inches long and are kept year round. Each needle has two white parallel stripes running the length of the bottom side of the needle. Needles are attached to the twig by a slender stalk.



Bark

The bark of a hemlock varies in color and texture with age. Young hemlock trees have smooth grey-brown bark. As trees mature, the bark darkens to red-brown and wide ridges and furrows develop.

