

## Distinguishing Hemlock from Yew

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It is easy to confuse Hemlock (*Tsuga* spp.) and Yew (*Taxus* spp.) unless you can see the overall plant habit or have them both side by side. Further confusing them is that both species may be pruned into hedges or other shapes that obscure the natural plant habits.

Hemlock has short needles, 1/4 - 3/4" long, green above and distinctly whitish silver below due to prominent white stomatal bands. Cones are 1/2 - 1" long, ovoid, and pendulous.

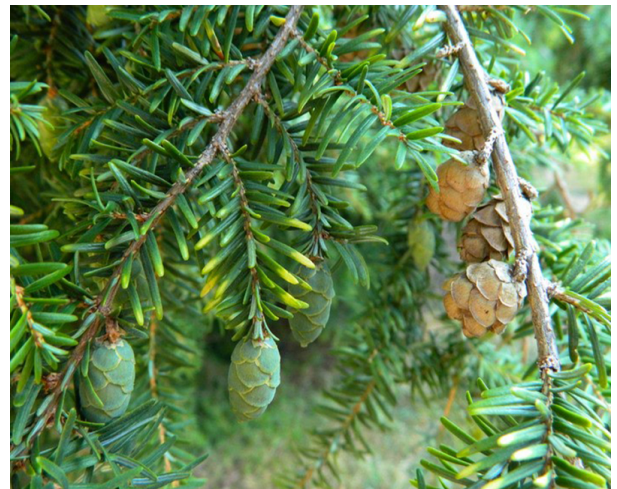


View of above side. Top: Yew. Bottom: Hemlock. Photo Credit: Rosie Lerner



View of Underside. Top: Yew. Bottom: Hemlock. Photo Credit: Rosie Lerner

Yew has a slightly longer and wider needle - about 1/2 - 1 1/4" long, dark green above and light green below, overall coarser texture compared to hemlock. Cones resemble berries, the brown seeds are covered by a fleshy red aril (seedcoat).



Hemlock Cones. Photo Credit: Purdue Arboretum



Yew Cones. Photo Credit: Purdue Arboretum

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