



# Project BudBurst

A National Phenology Network Field Campaign for Citizen Scientists



www.budburst.org

**Common Name:** Ponderosa pine  
**Scientific Name:** *Pinus ponderosa*  
**Plant Family:** Pinaceae

### Identifying Characteristics:

**Size:** Ponderosa pine grows to about 18 to 30.5 m (60 to 100 ft).

**Leaves:** Simple, linear, long, green needles. Three needles grow together in a bundle.

**Flowers:** Ponderosa pine has separate male and female cones (not true flowers).

**Bark:** Gray–brown to black in young trees; red–brown in older ones. The bark of older trees is split into broad plates covered with small concave scales.

**Habitat:** Rocky hills; low elevations in mountains

**Bloom time:** Flowering is correlated closely with the passing of freezing weather. Mid-Spring

### Information sources:

USA-National Phenology Network  
([www.uwm.edu/Dept/Geography/npn/pponder/index.html](http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/Geography/npn/pponder/index.html))  
Flora of North America  
([www.efloras.org/florataxon.aspx?flora\\_id=1&taxon\\_id=200005351](http://www.efloras.org/florataxon.aspx?flora_id=1&taxon_id=200005351))  
Wildflower Centre  
([wildflower.utexas.edu/plants/result.php?id\\_plant=PIPO](http://wildflower.utexas.edu/plants/result.php?id_plant=PIPO))

**Did you know?** Ponderosa pine got his name because of its ponderous, or heavy, wood. It is one of the most widely distributed pines in western North America. Ponderosa pine is a major source of timber, which is especially suited for window frames and panel doors. Ponderosa pine forests are also important as wildlife habitat. Quail, nutcrackers, squirrels, and many other kinds of wildlife consume the seeds. Dispersal is aided by chipmunks that store the seeds in their caches.



Photograph courtesy of USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Herman, D.E. et al. 1996. North Dakota tree handbook. USDA NRCS ND State Soil Conservation Committee; NDSU Extension and Western Area Power Admin., Bismarck, ND.

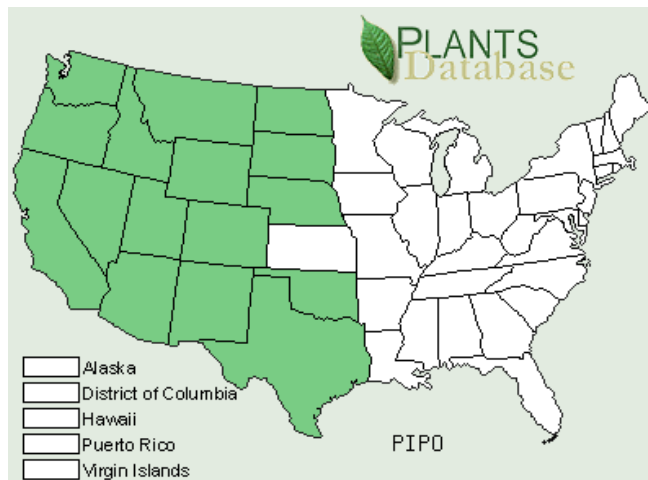


Photograph courtesy of USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Herman, D.E. et al. 1996. North Dakota tree handbook. USDA NRCS ND State Soil Conservation Committee; NDSU Extension and Western Area Power Admin., Bismarck, ND.

### Phenological observation:

First “Flower” (when male cones shed pollen)

### Distribution Area:



Map courtesy of USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database ([plants.usda.gov](http://plants.usda.gov))