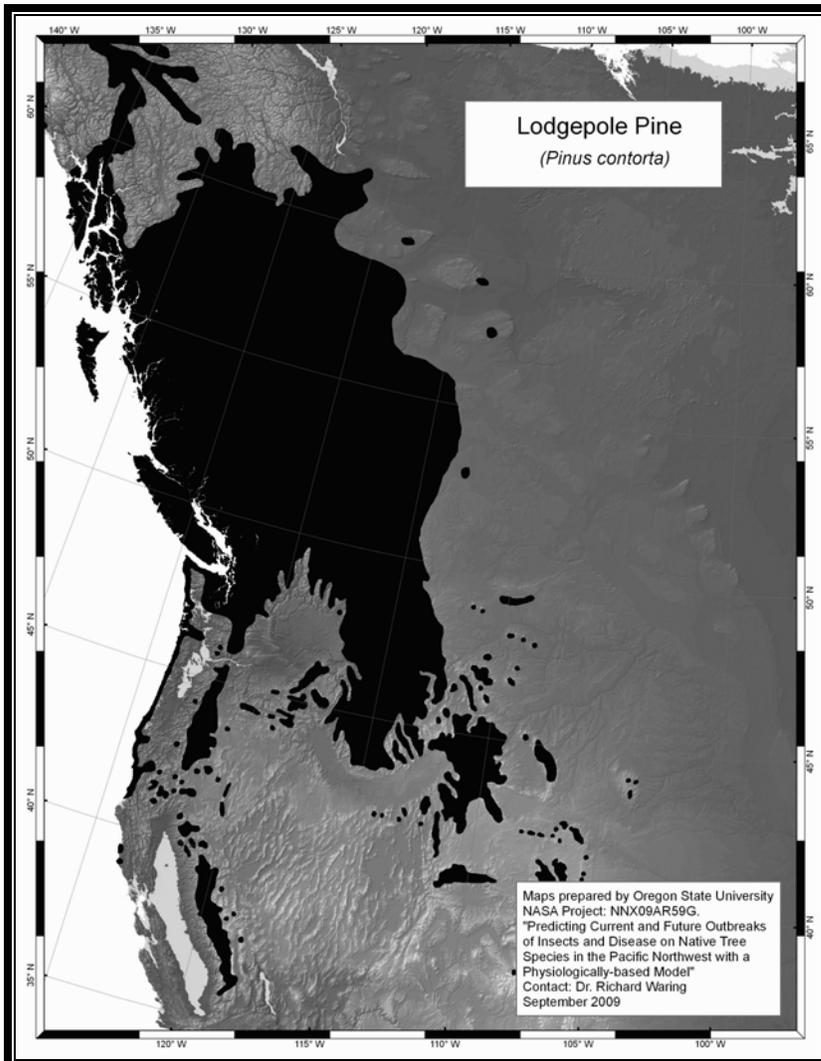


# Species Silvics

**Scientific Name:** *Pinus contorta* vars. *contorta*, *latifolia*

**Common name:** Lodgepole pine



## Climate:

Lodgepole pine is a very adaptable species. Examples of this species can be found on the lowest nutrient soils and in soils with any moisture level. Because of these high tolerances lodgepole pine has a large range in north western North America from the north in the Yukon, south to California and the mid-western states.

## Subspecies

Lodgepole pine has two distinctive subspecies that have quite different ranges. The more prevalent of the two is var. *latifolia* and is found on inland sights with less ocean influence. The second is var. *contorta* which occupies hypermaritime coastal areas in British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, and northern California. The coastal subspecies is shorter, with shorter needles, and often a crooked trunk.

## Bark

The bark of lodgepole pine is thin and scaly. The scales tend to be gray with the fissures between have an orange coloration.

## Wood

Var. *latifolia* has a straight stem with little taper and trees up to 30m tall producing a high timber volume per stem. Wood is moderate in strength and weight, with a light yellow colour. Var. *contorta* has poor stem form and is usually not commercially harvested.

## Foliage

Needles grow 3-7cm long, are paired and usually twisted with sharp points. Crowns are small in diameter and height.

## Cones

Seed cones are found at branch nodes at right angles to the branch. The cones are 3-6cm long. In interior subspecies the cones are serotinous (requiring heat to open) while coastal subspecies cones reflex open at maturity to release seed.

## Ecology

Lodgepole pine is adapted to colonize quickly after fires. The serotinous cones open and release seed in the intense heat of wildfires. The dense stands created after these events can stagnate due to competition for limited resources and remain at high densities and very small sizes for many decades.

## Uses

Lodgepole pine is used for construction timber, pulp, and biofuels.