State Tree

MI Dept. of Transportation Photography Unit

WHITE PINE

The towering white pine (Pinus strobus) of Michigan's lush forests of the pioneering days was adopted as the official State Tree on March 4, 1955. The white pine was the focal point of one of Michigan's greatest industries, lumbering. It is the largest conifer of the eastern and upper Midwest forests, reaching 150 feet in height and up to 40 inches in diameter. On Arbor Day in 1955, lawmakers attended special ceremonies during which small white pine trees were planted on the Capitol lawn.

(Public Act 7 of 1955)

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The white pine's evergreen needles grow in clusters of 5, are 2½ to 5 inches long, and blue-green in color. Its cones are 4 to 8 inches long and 1 inch thick. These cones remain attached to the branch for several months after ripening in the autumn of the second season.