



**Lodgepole pine**, *Pinus contorta*, also known as black pine is widely distributed and has a tall narrow growth habit generally reaching 20-80' tall and 1-3' wide. This tree is native to North America and the only conifer native in both Alaska and Mexico. Lodgepole owes its name to the long straight trunks having been used as poles by native American Indians in the construction of their lodges known as tipis (teepees, tepees).

Needles are in bundles of 2, long slightly flattened, often twisted and yellow-green to dark-green in color. The bark is light brown, thin and scaly. Cones are  $\frac{3}{4}$ ' – 2" long are egg-shaped with raised scales and a tiny slender prickle which produce viable seeds at a relatively early age.

This trees habitat is mostly in well drained soils and often in pure stands. The Rocky Mountain variety is adapted to forest fires with cones that remain tightly closed on the trees for many years until a fire destroys the forest and the heat causes the cones to open where seeds fall to the bare ground to begin a new forest.

Insects/Diseases: Mountain Pine Beetle is considered to be the most severe pest of Lodgepole pine. The mountain pine beetle has played an historic role in the dynamics of lodgepole pine ecosystems. By periodically invading stands and creating large amounts of fuels, which are eventually consumed by fire, creating favorable conditions for regeneration, the beetle has increased the probability that lodgepole pine will reoccupy the site at the expense of other species. Ips is another aggressive bark beetle commonly developing in logging slash, especially slash that is shaded and does not dry quickly. Prompt slash disposal is an effective control measure along with preventative spraying. Dwarf mistletoe is the most widespread and serious parasite affecting lodgepole pine.