

## ALBERTA'S GRADE ONE TREE SEEDLING PROGRAM

is a cherished tradition dating back to the 1960's. The students receiving their seedlings today likely have parents and even grandparents who also planted a Grade One tree. They might even be able to show it to you!

Alberta Forestry, Parks and Tourism distributes 70,000 Grade One seedlings every year. The two species of trees we distribute are native to Alberta and are commonly found in our forests.



### LOGEPOLE PINE

The provincial tree of Alberta. Lodgepole pine is a tall, straight conifer tree (it has cones, and needles not leaves).

Lodgepole pine trees are found across Alberta. Historically it was used by Indigenous People for use as tipi frames (hence the name lodgepole). Later, settlers would use lodgepole pine wood for construction of everything from cabins and fence posts, to railway ties and telegraph poles. Today, it is still used for posts and poles but also in our homes for doors, windows and furniture.

Lodgepole pine trees also provide excellent habitat for insects, birds, deer, and moose. Sometimes bears like to eat the nutritious inner bark.

This tree relies mainly on forest fires to reproduce. The heat of the fire makes the hard cones open up, releasing the seeds. Lodgepole pines can live up to 150 years!

### WHITE SPRUCE

This is a large conifer tree (has cones, and needles not leaves). It grows up to 147 feet - that's about 42 grade one students tall! It can live 50 to 100 years on average but some live to 200. It is a very tough tree.

Many birds and animals eat the seeds for food, and its branches provide cover and protection for wildlife. This tree relies on the wind and birds to disperse its seeds.

The white spruce makes strong lumber and plywood which is useful for house building. Other uses include musical instruments, food containers, paddles and oars, and shelving. Many farmers use this tree to grow shelterbelts, which protect their fields from the wind.





- Alberta's forested public lands cover over half the province - 35 million hectares (350 500 km<sup>2</sup>). That is about the size of Germany!
- In Alberta the forests are owned by the Crown, which means they belong to all of us. They are managed by the Government of Alberta (Department of Forestry and Parks), which grants certain companies the right to harvest trees, to make into lumber, pulp and other products.
- This provides jobs for about 18-thousand Albertans in many communities.

- ✓ By law, companies **must reforest** the areas they harvest.
- ✓ On average, forest **companies plant three trees for every one that they harvest**. That's more than 100 million seedlings every year.
- ✓ Government and industry work together on forest management plans that look ahead 200 years into the future! These will ensure there will always be trees for your great-great-great-GREAT grandchildren to enjoy!
- ✓ Less than **1%** of Alberta's forests are harvested each year.

- Albertans can also get a permit to cut their own trees down to use for Christmas trees, firewood and log homes.

For more information regarding Alberta's forests, go to [alberta.ca/forestry.aspx](http://alberta.ca/forestry.aspx).

For questions regarding the Grade One Seedling program, contact [Wendy.Machan@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Wendy.Machan@gov.ab.ca).