

Station 9: Pines + Blueberries

Two common types of coniferous trees found in Massachusetts are the white pine and the red pine. You will notice there is a large white pine to the left side of the trail and a red pine to the right (if you are taking the loop in chronological order). The white pine is best noted for having five needles to a bunch, whereas the red pine has two. The red pine or Norway pine is distinguished from the white pine because the bark has a slight reddish tint. In the past, red pines were often used in reforestation projects. You may have noticed a small recurrent green bush along the path and especially among groves of pine; if you are lucky and have visited in the late summer/early fall, the familiar berries will also be on display. These are wild lowbush blueberries, native to New England and very tasty! They grow especially well in pine forests because the decomposing needles lower the pH of the soil to their preferred range (between 4.5 and 5.5).

