



## EASTERN HEMLOCK *Tsuga canadensis* (L.) Carr.



*The wood of the Eastern hemlock is used for framing, sheathing, roof boards, timbers, bark mulch and pulp.*

**E**astern hemlock is found in scattered stands in nearly every part of the state. Best growth is attained on moist, cool sites. It generally attains a height of 60–70 feet, and a diameter of 2–3 feet. The terminal shoot droops and bends away from the prevailing winds, quite often toward the east. The trunk usually tapers rapidly from the base. This species can withstand considerable shading.

The **bark** is divided into narrow, rounded ridges covered with thick scales, and varies in color from cinnamon-red to gray. Inner bark exposed by cuts or bruises shows a purplish tinge.

The **leaves** are flat, tapering, generally rounded at the apex, from  $\frac{1}{3}$ – $\frac{2}{3}$  inch long, with a distinct short petiole and so arranged that the twig appears flat. Leaves become progressively shorter towards the tip of the twig. They are dark yellow-green with a lustrous upper surface, and a whitish undersurface.





The **cones** are about  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch long, oblong, light brown, pendant and suspended on short, slender stalks. Cones mature during the first autumn and generally remain on the branches until the next spring. Seeds are winged and fall during the winter. The **twigs** are very fine, limber and are not pitchy.

The **wood** is coarse, brittle when very dry, light, strong and difficult to work as it is likely to separate at one or more of the annual growth rings. It is used for framing, sheathing, roof boards, timbers and pulp. The bark was once valuable for tanning but has been replaced by chemicals; now it is prized for its purple color when made into mulch.



*When cut with a knife, Eastern hemlock bark will show a purple color.*



MAINE REGISTER OF BIG TREES 2008  
Eastern Hemlock Circumference: 127" Height: 88' Crown Spread: 32' Location: North Yarmouth

