Tips for identifying *Juniperus ashei* for the Pollen Trackers campaign

November 2019
Welcome to the Pollen Trackers campaign!

We are interested in your observations of pollen cones on *Juniperus ashei* in Texas from December to February.

This guide will help you to identify the correct species of juniper and selecting a male, as opposed to a female, tree.

Please refer to the Phenophase Photo Guide for *Juniperus ashei*, located on the Pollen Trackers landing page (usanpn.org/nn/PollenTrackers), for photos of pollen cones.
Where can I find *Juniperus ashei*?

This species is primarily found in central Texas.
What does *Juniperus ashei* look like?

- Small coniferous tree that can grow as tall as 30’.
- Grows in both open areas and in closed canopy forests.
- Scale-like leaves are green year-round and the shoots are rounded but not flattened.
- Blue seed cones and pollen cones reach maturity in December to February.
- Reaches reproductive maturity at heights as short as 4’. Its bark is reddish-brown and peels into long strips.
- Male trees have small green or brown pollen cones. Female trees have blue juniper “berries.”
What does *Juniperus ashei* look like?

Adult trees:

- Open-grown Ashe’s juniper trees
- Closed canopy Ashe’s juniper tree

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What does *Juniperus ashei* look like?

Adult trees:
How do I know if I have a male tree?

Male trees have small green or brown pollen cones

Note dark orange color of male trees (due to pollen cones)

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How do I know if I have a male tree?

Female trees have blue juniper “berries”
Look-alike species to avoid: *Juniperus virginiana* (eastern red cedar)

- More common to the east of I-35 in TX
- Flowers in early spring (March)
- More of an upright conical growth form
- Seed cones are smaller and rounder
Look-alike species to avoid: *Juniperus pinchotii* (redberry juniper)

- Has red/brown seed cones instead of blue seed cones
- Often has small flecks of a waxy white substance on its leaves
- More stems
- Produces pollen in the late fall