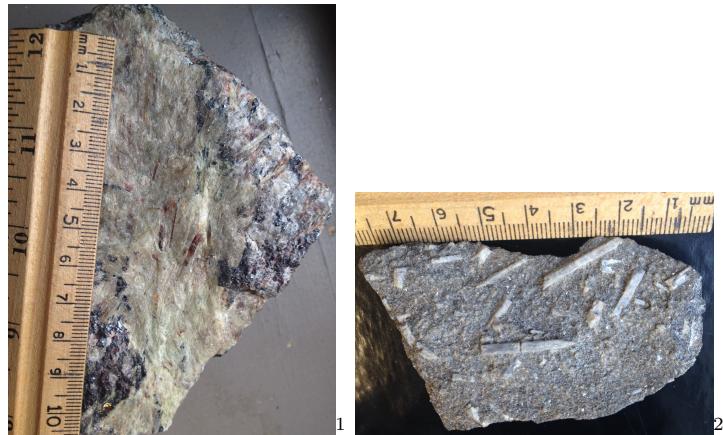


# Sillimanite

Benjamin Bass

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**General Mineral Formula:**  $\text{Al}_2\text{AlOSiO}_4$

**Mineral Chemical Class:** Neosilicates

**Specific Gravity:** 3.2-3.3

**Hardness:** 6.5-7.5

**Cleavage:** 1,1

**Luster:** Vitreous, silky

**Streak:** Colorless, white

**Characteristic Color(s):** Gray, brown, yellowish-grey, white.

**Crystal System:** Orthorhombic

**Crystal Class:** 2/m 2/m 2/m

**Crystal Description (common forms, habit, etc.):** Most often fibrous, sometimes radiating crystals sprays embedded in matrix. Also columnar, massive, compact, and rounded waterworn crystals.

**Environment (where you find the material):** In metamorphosed schists and gneisses.

<sup>1</sup>Small, fiber-like, grey or brown.

<sup>2</sup>Sometimes radiating crystals

**Common Mineral Associations** (in samples, also consult text,  
notes: Quartz, Biotite, Almandine, Plagioclase

**Scientific Usage/Significance:** None

**Industrial or Social Use/Significance:** Occasionally gemstones. Native Americans used it as a material to make tools.

**Environmental Significance:** In metamorphosed schists and gneisses.