

Scots pine

Pinus sylvestris

Description

Important tree in the forestry industry, with its wood being used for pulp and sawn timber products. One of the first trees ever introduced to the United States in the 1600s and became widely popular in the Christmas tree trade. It was the most popular Christmas trees from the 1950s through the 1980s.

Habit

Perennial, coniferous; 70-120 ft tall, 3-5 ft diameter, evergreen tree, higher stems are bright orange in color.

Leaves

Evergreen needles, 1 1/2 to 3 inches long, with two stout, twisted needles per fascicle; blue-green with distinct stomatal bands.

Stems

Moderately stout; green when young, changing to yellow-brown to olive-brown with large orangish, narrowly ovoid buds.





Flowers

Monoecious, males cylindrical, yellow in color, in large clusters along twigs; females oval, yellow-green to purple in color.

Fruits and Seeds

Cones are ovoid, 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 inches long, yellow-brown in color and slightly stalked, umbo is somewhat armed, with a blunt spine; apophysis resembles a pyramid, particularly on basal scales; maturing in the fall.

Habitat

Native to Scotland and Europe. Grows well in moist, well-drained soils. Found in old fields, roadsides, open bogs, and open forested areas.

Reproduction

By seed.

Similar

Jack Pine (*Pinus banksiana*); Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*); Swiss Mountain Pine (*Pinus uncinata*).

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Hand-pulling young seedlings, cut larger trees, effectively controlled using any of several readily available general use herbicides such as glyphosate or triclopyr. Coneworm larvae, tip moths and pine root collar weevil are natural enemies.

Credits

The information provided in this factsheet was gathered from the USDA PLANTS Database, Wikipedia, and the Virginia Tech Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation VTree.

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