

Pitch pine

Pinus rigida

Description

Native to eastern United States. Has been shown to spread aggressively into sand dunes in Michigan.

Habit

Straight or medium sized tree that can reach a height of 80 feet.

Leaves

Evergreen needles, 2.5-5 inches long, 3 twisted needles per fascicle, yellow-green to green in color.

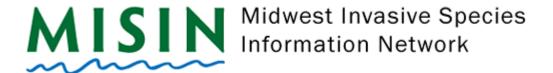
Stems

Twigs are orange-brown, stout, buds narrowly ovoid becoming light gray-brown. Bark is dark and scaly developing red-brown or yellow-brown thick flat plates with deep furrows.

Flowers

Monoecious; male flowers are cylindrical, red to yellow in color, borne in large clusters at twig tips.





Female flowers are yellow to red in color with small, curved scales.

Fruits and Seeds

Cones are ovoid, 2-4 inches long, light brown in color, umbo has a short, stout prickle.

Habitat

Native to the eastern United States. Can be found in dunes and pine barrens.

Reproduction

By seed and vegetatively by basal and epicormic sprouting.

Similar

Loblolly pine (Pinus taeda), shortleaf pine (Pinus echinata), Pond pine (Pinus serotina), Table Mountain pine (Pinus pungens)

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Individual seedlings can be hand pulled.

Credits

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