

## 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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