

White Pine (*Pinus strobus*)

The White Pine is an evergreen gymnosperm tree that may grow 50 to 80 feet tall. The tree has 3- to 5-inch slender needles in clusters of 5. The needle clusters are deciduous. The bark is green with some lighter patches in young trees. As the tree ages, the bark turns reddish-brown with prominent finely-scaly, rounded, long ridges and darker furrows. In spring, cylindrical, yellow, male flowers and light green, female flowers mature in clusters. The tree produces a resinous cone.

The White Pine grows naturally in high, dry, sandy and rocky ridges and is tolerant of a wide range of soil conditions. However, it most prefers full sun, moist, well-drained, fertile sandy loams, and cool, humid climates and full sun. It is intolerant of many air pollutants such as sulfur dioxide and ozone, salts, and alkaline soils.

An important timber tree (perhaps more so in the 18th and 19th centuries than now) which was and is valued for its lightweight, straight-grained wood. This plant is an attractive ornamental landscape tree. It is utilized as a Christmas tree, and exterior in large areas, hedges, and borders. The White Pine is very susceptible to white pine blister rust and the white pine weevil. Due to the susceptibility to pests and ability to block line of sight, the White Pine should not be used as a street tree.