

Longleaf Pine

Pinus palustris



Longleaf Pine Potted

Unique for its longevity of up to 450 years old, Longleaf Pine is the longest lived of all the southern pine species. Because of its long life, these trees experience four main stages of growth: grass stage, bottlebrush stage, sapling stage, and mature stage. All of these stages are unique in appearance and have their own sets of benefits to their ecosystems. Even in their death, assuming they have survived mother nature's hurricanes, tornadoes, lightning, wildfires, drought, and ice storms, their bark continues to contribute to the ecosystem just as it did during its life.

Longleaf Pines grow best in warm, wet, temperate climates, and they can be found in the Atlantic and Gulf coastal plains of the southeast. It does best in full sun and grows well in well-drained sandy or clay soils. The Longleaf Pine has needle-like leaves that grow in groups and are the longest of any pine tree variety. The overall height of this tree depends on its life stage, but in its maturity, it can reach up to 120 feet tall and 2.5 feet in diameter.

This pine has been found to be a great home for bobwhite quail, white-tailed deer, wild turkey, and fox squirrel. When this tree reaches maturity and enters its old-growth stage, it is found to be a nesting habitat for the red-cockaded woodpecker.

Longleaf pines used to cover approximately 90 million acres, but now only cover fewer than 3% of that range. Restoration of these beautiful trees is now a top priority for major conservationists in recent years, as many endangered species rely on them for their habitats. This species of tree is the most resilient to the natural elements than any other species of pine tree.



Longleaf Pine Needles
Ricky Layson, Ricky Layson Photography, Bugwood.org



Longleaf Pine Bark

Longleaf Pine

Pinus palustris



Longleaf Pine in the Landscape

Photo courtesy of Chuck Barger, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

Common Names:

Longstraw Pine,
Southern Yellow Pine,
Georgia Pine

Native Origin :

Southeastern United
States, North America

Environment:

Soil: alkaline, loamy, rich,
and clay soils
Exposure: full sun and
partial shade
Salt: high

Description:

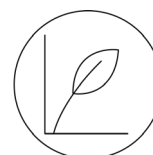
Hardy Range: 7 - 10
Mature Height: 60 - 80'
Mature Spread: 30 - 40'
Growth Rate: medium to
fast, height increase of
13" to 24" per year
Form: irregular oval
silhouette, crown-shaped
with pompom-like tufts at
the end made of needles.

Ornamental Characteristics:

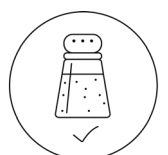
Longleaf Pine needles are formed in dark green bundles of three, and their needles can grow anywhere from 8 to 15 inches long. The needles are yellow/green in color, shiny, bendy, and have a slight twist to them. The twigs are thick, and the bark shares their orange/brown color. The pine cones they produce can measure 6 to 8 inches long, proving to be the largest of all southern pine seeds.



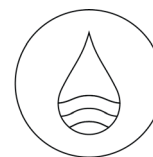
*South Eastern
Native*



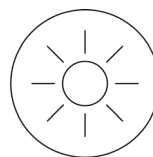
Fast growth



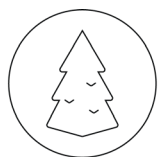
Salt tolerant



*High wetness
tolerance*



Full Sun



Evergreen