**Pinus eldarica**
Mondell Pine

Edward F. Gilman and Dennis G. Watson

**INTRODUCTION**

Growing rapidly when young, Mondell Pine reaches heights of 30 to 40 feet and is quite dense (Fig. 1). This tree stands out among the pines due to the upright growth habit that stays with the tree throughout its life. The paired, medium green needles are five to 6.5 inches long and joined by three-inch-long cones. The tree is most often grown in parts of Texas.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

- **Scientific name:** Pinus eldarica
- **Pronunciation:** PIE-nus ell-DAR-ick-uh
- **Common name(s):** Mondell Pine
- **Family:** Pinaceae
- **USDA hardiness zones:** 6 through 8 (Fig. 2)
- **Origin:** not native to North America
- **Uses:** Bonsai; recommended for buffer strips around parking lots or for median strip plantings in the highway; reclamation plant; specimen; no proven urban tolerance
- **Availability:** somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the tree

**DESCRIPTION**

- **Height:** 30 to 40 feet
- **Spread:** 25 to 30 feet
- **Crown uniformity:** symmetrical canopy with a regular (or smooth) outline, and individuals have more or less identical crown forms
- **Crown shape:** pyramidal; upright
- **Crown density:** moderate

![Figure 1. Young Mondell Pine.](image)

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**Foliage**

- **Leaf arrangement:** alternate; spiral
- **Leaf type:** simple
- **Leaf margin:** entire
- **Leaf shape:** needle-like (filiform)
- **Leaf venation:** parallel
- **Leaf type and persistence:** evergreen; fragrant; needle leaf evergreen
- **Leaf color:** green
- **Fall color:** no fall color change
- **Fall characteristic:** not showy

**Fruit**

- **Fruit shape:** oval
- **Fruit length:** 1 to 3 inches
- **Fruit covering:** dry or hard
- **Fruit color:** brown
- **Fruit characteristics:** attracts squirrels and other mammals; inconspicuous and not showy; fruit, twigs, or foliage cause significant litter; persistent on the tree

**Trunk and Branches**

- **Trunk/bark/branches:** grow mostly upright and will not droop; not particularly showy; should be grown with a single leader; no thorns
- **Pruning requirement:** needs little pruning to develop a strong structure
- **Breakage:** susceptible to breakage either at the crotch due to poor collar formation, or the wood itself is weak and tends to break
- **Current year twig color:** brown
- **Current year twig thickness:** medium

**Culture**

- **Light requirement:** tree grows in full sun
- **Soil tolerances:** clay; loam; sand; acidic; alkaline; well-drained
- **Drought tolerance:** high
Other

Roots: surface roots are usually not a problem
Winter interest: no special winter interest
Outstanding tree: not particularly outstanding
Invasive potential: little, if any, potential at this time
Verticillium wilt susceptibility: not known to be susceptible
Pest resistance: long-term health usually not affected by pests

USE AND MANAGEMENT

The dense habit would make it well suited as a fine-textured screen. It is often used as a specimen, planted in groups or by itself in an open lawn area.

Mondell Pine should be grown in full sun on any well-drained soil and thrives in desert-like conditions. It also grows well in alkaline or clay soil.

Propagation is by seed.

Pests and Diseases

Pine tip moth can cause some damage to twigs.