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**INTRODUCTION**

Japanese White Pine creates a striking landscape element wherever it is used (Fig. 1). Often seen as a dense, conical form when young, Japanese White Pine develops into a 25 to 50-foot-tall, graceful, irregularly-shaped tree, with an equal or greater spread, and a broad, flattened canopy. The 1 to 2.5-inch-long needles are stiff and twisted, forming blue/green tufts of foliage at branch tips, and creating an overall fine texture to the tree’s silhouette. The brownish-red cones are one to four inches long and persist on the tree for six to seven years.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Scientific name:** *Pinus parviflora*

**Pronunciation:** PIE-nus par-vih-FLOR-uh

**Common name(s):** Japanese White Pine

**Family:** Pinaceae

**USDA hardiness zones:** 4B through 7A (Fig. 2)

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Uses:** Bonsai; screen; specimen; no proven urban tolerance

**Availability:** somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the tree

**DESCRIPTION**

**Height:** 25 to 50 feet

**Spread:** 25 to 50 feet

**Crown uniformity:** irregular outline or silhouette

**Crown shape:** spreading; pyramidal

**Crown density:** dense

**Growth rate:** slow

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Flower

Flower color: yellow
Flower characteristics: inconspicuous and not showy; spring flowering

Fruit

Fruit shape: oval
Fruit length: 3 to 6 inches; 1 to 3 inches
Fruit covering: dry or hard
Fruit color: brown; red
Fruit characteristics: does not attract wildlife; fruit, twigs, or foliage cause significant litter; persistent on the tree; showy

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: bark is thin and easily damaged from mechanical impact; droop as the tree grows, and will require pruning for vehicular or pedestrian clearance beneath the canopy; 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; green
Current year twig thickness: medium

Culture

Light requirement: tree grows in full sun
Soil tolerances: clay; loam; sand; acidic; well-drained
Drought tolerance: moderate
Aerosol salt tolerance: high

Other

Roots: surface roots are usually not a problem
Winter interest: tree has winter interest due to unusual form, nice persistent fruits, showy winter trunk, or winter flowers
Outstanding tree: tree has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more
Invasive potential: little, if any, potential at this time
Ozone sensitivity: sensitive or moderately tolerant
Verticillium wilt susceptibility: not known to be susceptible
Pest resistance: very sensitive to one or more pests or diseases which can affect tree health or aesthetics

**USE AND MANAGEMENT**

When looking for a small, picturesque specimen Pine for a coastal landscape, search no more. One of the best specimens in any landscape, Japanese White Pine is a pleasure to behold with attractive foliage in all seasons. Set it off in the landscape with a low ground cover beneath or locate it in the lawn, but keep the grass cleared away from the thin-barked trunk.

Japanese White Pine should be grown in full sun on well-drained soil with adequate moisture. The trees are salt-tolerant, and tolerate moderate drought and moist, clay soil.

Cultivars include: ‘Brevifolia’, upright, narrow tree, sparsely branched, blue/green foliage in tight bundles; and ‘Glauca’, available in nurseries, greenish foliage with a touch of silver, wide-spreading tree, 45 feet high or more.

Propagation is by seed.

**Pests and Diseases**

There are a large number of pests and diseases on Pine.