**Pinus taeda** ‘Nana’  
‘Nana’ Loblolly Pine

Edward F. Gilman and Dennis G. Watson

**INTRODUCTION**

Loblolly Pine is a North American native which is usually seen from 50 to 80 feet tall with a 30-foot spread though it is capable of reaching more than 150 feet in height (Fig. 1). This cultivar probably grows to only 10 to 20 feet in height making it ideal for use as a specimen or screen. It has a dense, rounded silhouette and may become popular, especially for small-scale landscapes, once people discover it. The pyramidal, dense form stays with the tree throughout its life making it ideal for screening. It does not appear to lose its lower limbs as it grows older as does the species. The six to nine-inch-long evergreen needles turn light green during the winter. The often-paired cones are three to six inches long, red/brown, and have very sharp spines. They persist on the tree for several years and mature in the fall. The bark of Loblolly Pine is very thick which helps make this tree very resistant to fire in the wild.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Scientific name:** *Pinus taeda* ‘Nana’  
**Pronunciation:** PIE-nus TEE-duh  
**Common name(s):** ‘Nana’ Loblolly Pine  
**Family:** Pinaceae  
**USDA hardiness zones:** 6B through 9 (Fig. 2)  
**Origin:** native to North America  
**Uses:** Bonsai; container or above-ground planter; recommended for buffer strips around parking lots or for median strip plantings in the highway; screen; specimen; no proven urban tolerance  
**Availability:** somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the tree

**DESCRIPTION**

- **Height:** 15 to 20 feet  
- **Spread:** 15 to 20 feet  
- **Crown uniformity:** symmetrical canopy with a regular (or smooth) outline, and individuals have more or less identical crown forms  
- **Crown shape:** round

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2. Edward F. Gilman, associate professor, Environmental Horticulture Department; Dennis G. Watson, associate professor, Agricultural Engineering Department, Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville FL 32611.
Crown density: dense
Growth rate: slow
Texture: fine

**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 blade length: 8 to 12 inches; 4 to 8 inches
Leaf color: green
Fall color: no fall color change
Fall characteristic: not showy

**Flower**

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

**Fruit**

Fruit shape: oval (Fig. 3)
Fruit length: 3 to 6 inches
Fruit covering: dry or hard
Fruit color: brown
Fruit characteristics: attracts squirrels and other mammals; fruit, twigs, or foliage cause significant litter; persistent on the tree; showy

**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: resistant
Current year twig color: brown
Current year twig thickness: medium; thick
Wood specific gravity: 0.51
Figure 3. Fruit of ‘Nana’ Loblolly Pine.

Culture

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

Other

**Roots:** surface roots are usually not a problem  
**Winter interest:** no special winter interest  
**Outstanding tree:** tree has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more  
**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**

Pines are often grouped together in a landscape and they are becoming more popular for planting in parks and in commercial landscapes. They create a denser shade than the species which can shade out grass and other sun-loving plants beneath the canopy.

Loblolly Pine should be grown in full sun on well-drained, acid soil. It is highly drought-tolerant once established.

**Pests**

It may be infected by pine bark beetle, borers, pine tip moth, and sawflies.

**Diseases**

It is susceptible to fusiform rust and heart rot.