



# *Araucaria heterophylla* Norfolk-Island-Pine<sup>1</sup>

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## INTRODUCTION

This large evergreen has a single upright trunk, tiered branching habit, and a narrow pyramidal or columnar shape (Fig. 1). Eventually reaching a height of about 80 feet, the tree possesses a rapid growth rate. The tree would grow taller, but lightning frequently limits height growth in the eastern U.S. The dark green, 1/2-inch-long, individual leaves on young trees are lanceolate and look somewhat like spruce or fir needles at first glance. Mature leaves are somewhat contorted on twisted branches. Both leaf types appear on the tree at the same time. The trunk is often curved and swollen at the base and black. The large, spiny, 10 to 15-pound cones are rare in cultivation.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**Scientific name:** *Araucaria heterophylla*

**Pronunciation:** air-ah-KAIR-ee-uh  
het-er-oh-FILL-uh

**Common name(s):** Norfolk-Island-Pine

**Family:** *Araucariaceae*

**USDA hardiness zones:** 10 through 11 (Fig. 2)

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Uses:** suitable for growing indoors; specimen

**Availability:** generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

## DESCRIPTION

**Height:** 60 to 80 feet

**Spread:** 12 to 20 feet

**Crown uniformity:** symmetrical canopy with a regular (or smooth) outline, and individuals have more



Figure 1. Middle-aged Norfolk-Island-Pine.

or less identical crown forms

**Crown shape:** columnar; pyramidal

**Crown density:** open

**Growth rate:** fast

1. This document is adapted from Fact Sheet ST-83, a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Publication date: November 1993.
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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**Texture:** fine

### Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** spiral (Fig. 3)

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** entire

**Leaf shape:** linear; needle-like (filiform)

**Leaf venation:** parallel

**Leaf type and persistence:** evergreen; needle leaf evergreen

**Leaf blade length:** less than 2 inches

**Leaf color:** green

**Fall color:** no fall color change

**Fall characteristic:** not showy

### Flower

**Flower characteristics:** inconspicuous and not showy

### Fruit

**Fruit shape:** oval

**Fruit length:** 6 to 12 inches; 3 to 6 inches

**Fruit covering:** dry or hard

**Fruit color:** green

**Fruit characteristics:** does not attract wildlife; fruit, twigs, or foliage cause significant litter; 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; green

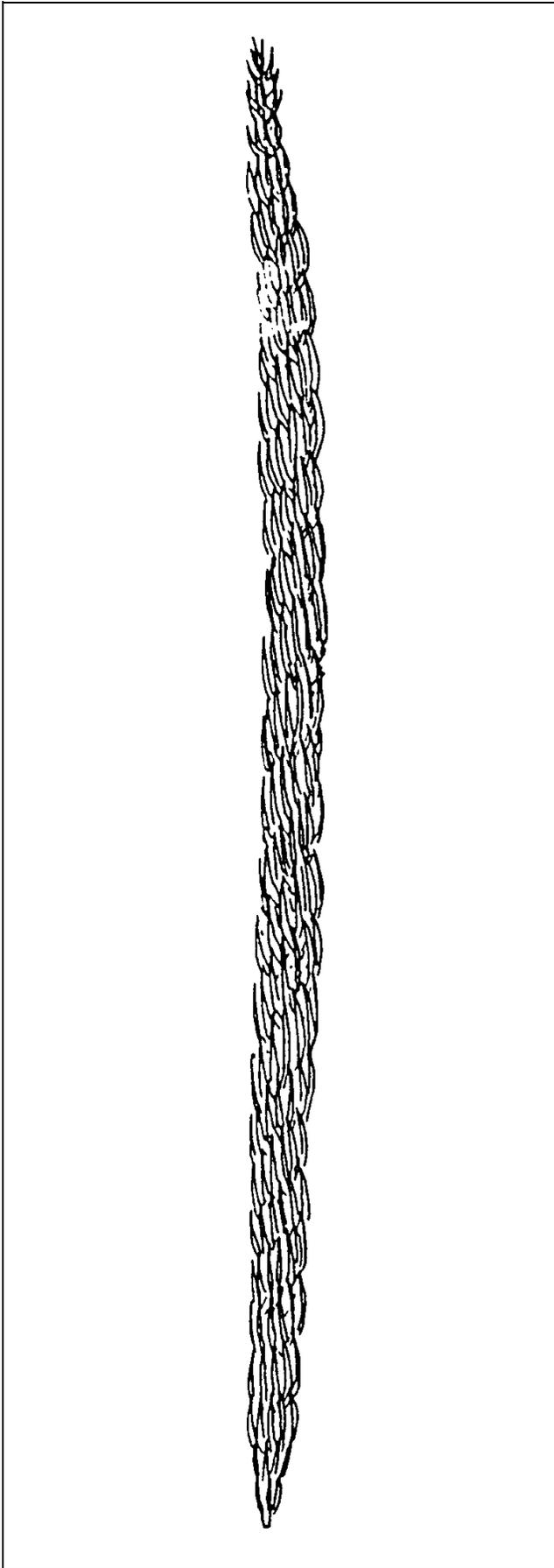
**Current year twig thickness:** medium

### Culture

**Light requirement:** tree grows in full sun

**Soil tolerances:** clay; loam; sand; acidic; alkaline; well-drained

**Drought tolerance:** high



**Figure 3.** Foliage of Norfolk-Island-Pine.

**Aerosol salt tolerance:** moderate

**Other**

**Roots:** surface roots can lift sidewalks or interfere with mowing

**Winter interest:** no special winter interest

**Outstanding tree:** not particularly outstanding

**Invasive potential:** little, if any, potential at this time

**Pest resistance:** long-term health usually not affected by pests

**USE AND MANAGEMENT**

Although they provide some shade, they are not suitable for patios or terraces because they are too large and large surface roots are common. In addition, columnar-formed trees generally cast limited shade due to the narrow crown. Many people forget how tall these trees grow. They often have an attractive pyramidal form (like a fir or spruce tree) when they are small, but they quickly grow too tall for most residential sites. They can live as a house plant for a long time if not overwatered.

Growing best in full sun locations, this tree thrives on a variety of soils and is moderately salt tolerant. Young plants should be watered well, especially during periods of drought. Be sure to prune out multiple trunks or leaders as they should be grown with one central leader.

Propagation is by seeds or cuttings of erect shoot tips only.

**Pests**

Scale.

**Diseases**

No diseases are of major concern. Sooty mold, and leaf spot are minor problems.