



Pinus parviflora Japanese White Pine¹

Edward F. Gilman and Dennis G. Watson²

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

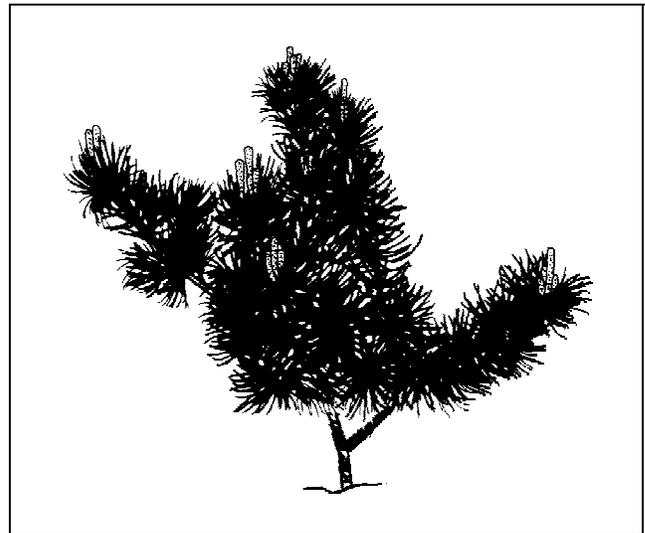


Figure 1. Young Japanese White Pine.

Texture: fine

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: alternate; spiral (Fig. 3)

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: 2 to 4 inches; less than 2 inches

Leaf color: blue or blue-green; green

Fall color: no fall color change

Fall characteristic: not showy

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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.



Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

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

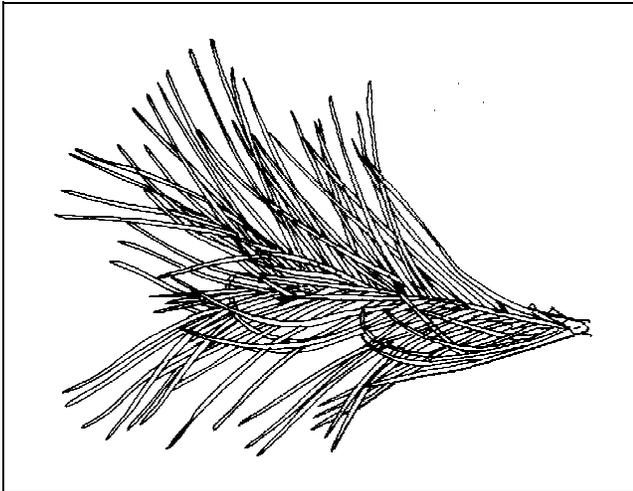


Figure 3. Foliage of Japanese White Pine.

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.