

# Shortleaf Pine - *Pinus echinata*

**Common Name(s):** Shortleaf pine

**Categories:** Native Plants, Trees

**Comment:** The *Pinus echinata* has attractive reddish-brown bark in scaly plates on mature trees. As the tree ages, the flat scales reveal a yellowish color when removed. It is an important timber tree in the deep South where it is harvested for a variety of purposes, including lumber, plywood and wood pulp (for paper). Oleoresins are extracted to make turpentine. The formation of a deep taproot complicates transplanting from the wild.

**Seasons of Interest:** **Bloom:** Spring      **Fruit/Seed/Nut:** Fall

**Wildlife Value:** The Shortleaf pine is moderately resistant to deer damage. It provides winter cover. It is also a host plant for the Eastern Pine Elfin butterfly and many moths. Squirrels, other small mammals, and birds eat the seeds.

**Insects, Diseases, or Other Plant Problems:** Healthy, well-maintained Shortleaf pine trees usually have few problems. Pine beetles and weevils are potential insect pests.

**Height:** 80-100 ft.

**Flower:** In the spring, red to yellow, male and light green to red, female flowers mature on the Shortleaf pine. This tree produces both a pale purple male cone and a pale pink female cone.

**Zones:** 6-9

**Habit:** Evergreen

**Site:** The Shortleaf Pine grows best in average, dry to medium, well-drained soils in full sun. It will tolerate some light shade. It will also tolerate a wide range of soils but prefers sandy loams.

**Form:** Pyramidal in youth; develops a small narrow crown with age; horizontal branches

**Exposure:** Sun

**Fruit:** Cones

**Width:** 30 ft.

**Growth Rate:** Rapid

**Leaf:** The Shortleaf Pine has dark bluish-green needles (3-5" long) that appear in bundles of two. Cylindrical brown cones (1.5 to 2.5" long) are usually not produced until the tree reaches 20 years old. Attractive reddish-brown bark in scaly plates on mature trees.

**Tags:** butterflies, birds, screen, shelter, deer resistant, evergreen

