

# Pinus rigida



## pitch pine

Family *Pinaceae*

Origin Native

WIS Code FAC CoC 5

### DESCRIPTION

Evergreen tree (to 30 m tall) with dark to yellowish-brown platy rough bark. Needles (leaves) are 4 to 15 cm long, dark green to yellow-green, stiff, both twisted and straight with three per fascicle (bundle of needles wrapped at base by papery sheath). Dense needle tufts often grow from the trunk and larger branches.

### POLLEN AND SEED CONES

May. Male and female reproductive structures form separate cones on the same tree. Male cones are cylindrical, changing from red to yellow, and are held in large clusters at twig tips. Seed cones are sessile (stalkless), 4.5 to 8 cm when mature, with a dark red-brown band on scale tips and curved sharp spines. Seeds are attached to a wing and are released in the fall of the second year after pollination.

### HABITAT

Sandy acid soils on moist to dry slopes and ridges and mountain swamps.

### SIMILAR SPECIES

*Pinus virginiana*, Virginia pine, is slightly smaller (to 20 m tall) with 4 to 8 cm long twisted needles (none straight) and 2 needles per fascicle. *Pinus pungens*, table-mountain pine, also is slightly smaller (to 21 m tall) with 3 to 7 cm long straight needles, two (sometimes three) needles per fascicle and stout prickles on its cones.



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