

Pinus cembra

Arolla Pine, Swiss Stone Pine, Austrian stone pine



Pinus cembra (Arolla pine/Swiss stone pine) is considered the undisputed queen of the high mountains of the Alps and Carpathians, and mostly growing above 1,200 metres sea level. *Pinus cembra* grows together with other conifers such as *Pinus mugo* and *Larix decidua*, which often reach above the tree line and scattered in the alpine landscape. The Arolla pine was described in 1753 by Carl Linnaeus, Swedish botanist. It is a large, evergreen and densely branched conifer with a pyramidal growth habit and can grow up to 35 metres tall in the wild. In cultivation, however, its height is limited to 18 metres by 10 metres wide. It is a slow-growing but very long-lived tree and predominantly forms a single stem.

The dull green to yellow-green, stiff and upright needles of *Pinus cembra* stand in bundles of five, grow densely on the shoots and have a nice fragrance during the summer. The inconspicuous flowers of the Arolla pine are fragrant and the male ones are reddish-brown and the female ones violet. The erect cones are globular or ovoid with rounded scales, beautiful purple when young and brown when mature. The seeds are large and are dispersed by birds or the wind and also harvested and sold as pine nuts. The bark is smooth and grey-green on young trees, but later turns light brownish grey and peeling off in smaller scales.

Pinus cembra is suitable for medium and larger gardens and parks and preferably planted in more humid and cool places in the sun, even though it is very hardy and can withstand winters down to -43 degrees. If these conditions are offered, it can also be planted on roofs and in tree boxes. The Arolla pine has many mycorrhizal associations that help it establish and grow faster, even at very rocky, high altitudes. It could be used as a single specimen as a focal point or in smaller groups as an evergreen backdrop tree. The nuts are edible, and its slow growth also makes its wood very valuable and durable.

SEASONAL COLOURS



TYPES OF PLANTING

Tree types: standard trees, feathered trees, conifers

USE

Location: park, in containers, roof garden, large garden, cemetery, traffic areas, industrial zones | **Pavement:** none

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: narrow pyramidal, wide pyramidal | **Crown structure:** dense | **Height:** 15 - 18 m | **Width:** 6 - 10 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 3A - 8A

ASPECTS

Wind: tolerant to wind | **Soil:** loess, sabulous clay, peaty, heavy clay, light clay, sand, loamy soil, all soils | **Nutrient level:** moderately rich in nutrients, rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level:** dry, moist | **Light requirements:** sun, partial shade | **pH range:** acidic, neutral | **Host plant/forage plant:** birds, owls, small mammals | **Extreme environments:** tolerates air pollution

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: raceme, discrete, standing, scented | **Flower colour:** red-brown, violet | **Flowering period:** May - May | **Leaf colour:** yellow-green, matt green, buds bright green | **Leaves:** evergreen, needles or scales, short needles, scented | **Fruits:** striking, cones | **Fruit colour:** brown, violet | **Bark colour:** grey-brown, grey-green | **Bark:** peeling, smooth, later on rough | **Twig colour:** yellow-brown, cinnamon-brown | **Twigs:** hairy, bare, vertical branches | **Root system:** deep, tap root