

# *Pinus heldreichii*

## Bosnian pine, Heldreich's pine



*Pinus heldreichii* (Bosnian pine) is a lovely evergreen conifer scattered across the high mountains of the Balkans and Southern Italy, and grows chiefly on limestone. The Bosnian pine is mostly found at higher elevations where winters are severe and only low-growing shrubs grow. Here, they can develop into amazing, large specimens with a unique form. These pines even grow on the steep, unstable slopes of alluvial fans where the extreme conditions shape their characteristic growth habit. In favourable conditions, it can grow between 20-30 metres tall and form a dense, narrow conical crown approximately five to nine metres wide but on poorer sites it develops a rather shrubbier character that only gets half as tall.

In mature trees, the smooth light grey bark of *Pinus heldreichii* peels off in polygonal, light white-grey plates with deep grooves. They resemble the designs of harnesses used by the ancient Greeks and Romans. The white-grey branches stand out very nicely against the dark green needles which curl towards the branch. The dark green needles of the Bosnian pine are arranged in pairs with a coarse texture. The entire canopy is resilient to heavy snowfall. The female cones are purple-blue when young and later turn dark brown. The scales have small pointed teeth that bend backwards.

*Pinus heldreichii* is an attractive tree of great value for a rapidly warming climate. It is robust in hot, dry conditions and completely hardy if planted on well-drained soil. It can make a wonderful tree for larger gardens and public parks. The Bosnian pine is not such a fast grower but can be very long-lived: some specimens are over 1,000 years old.

### TYPES OF PLANTING

**Tree types:** feathered trees, conifers, solitary shrubs

### USE

**Location:** park, in containers, roof garden, large garden, cemetery | **Pavement:** none

### CHARACTERISTICS

**Crown shape:** pyramidal | **Crown structure:** dense | **Height:** 20 - 30 m | **Width:** 5 - 9 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 6A - 8B

### ASPECTS

**Wind:** tolerant to wind | **Soil:** loess, sabulous clay, light clay, sand, loamy soil | **Nutrient level:** low in nutrients, moderately rich in nutrients, rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level:** dry, moist | **Light requirements:** sun | **pH range:** neutral, alkaline | **Host plant/forage plant:** birds, owls, small mammals | **Extreme environments:** tolerant to dryness, tolerates heat

### PLANTKENMERKEN

**Flowers:** raceme, discrete, flower-scented | **Flower colour:** bright yellow | **Flowering period:** May - May | **Leaf colour:** dark green | **Leaves:** evergreen, needles or scales, long needles, polished, leaf scented, curly | **Fruits:** striking, cones | **Fruit colour:** brown, blue-violet | **Bark colour:** pale brown, pale grey | **Bark:** peeling, deeply furrowed, smooth, later on rough | **Twig colour:** grey-brown, pale grey | **Twigs:** bare | **Root system:** deep

