

Pinus strobus

Eastern white Pine, northern white pine, white pine, Weymouth pine, soft pine



Pinus strobus (Weymouth pine) is found in the cool, damp forests of the Eastern United States and South-Eastern Canada, along with, amongst others, *Acer rubrum* and *Betula alleghaniensis*. In the so-called *Virgin forests* Weymouth pines reached heights of sixty metres but were felled for their valuable, light-coloured timber. In 1605, the ornamental tree was introduced in England by English explorer George Weymouth. Juvenile trees have a narrow crown which later becomes wide pyramidal with age, eventually becoming flattened with horizontal branching. *Pinus strobus* forms a good upright trunk and in cultivation reaches a height of between fifteen and twenty-five metres by eight to twelve metres across.

The blue-green and very soft, paintbrush-like needles of the Weymouth pine are arranged in bundles of five. The fragrant needles stay on the tree for between two and three years. In May, *Pinus strobus* produces inconspicuous yellow male and violet-red female inflorescences arranged in clusters. These are followed by long brown cones up to twenty centimetres in length, they are slightly curved and covered with white resin drops. Cones are produced even on young trees and open in the second year after flowering. Juvenile examples of *Pinus strobus* have a smooth, greyish green bark which changes to darker greyish brown as the trunk ages and the bark also develops long, deep furrowed ridges.

In nature, the Weymouth pine chiefly grows alone in damp forest areas but can also be found in large groups in drier, challenging climates. The tree functions as a pioneer species in full sun but its ultimate size means it also occurs in climax forests. *Pinus strobus* grows well in semi-shade, is resistant to air pollution and very hardy. It thrives on many different soil types provided these are acidic and well-drained. Its ultimate size means that *Pinus strobus* is only suitable for planting in parks and large gardens where it will make a real statement as an elegant pine.

SEASONAL COLOURS



TYPES OF PLANTING

Tree types: standard trees, feathered trees, conifers

USE

Location: park, central reservation, large garden, cemetery, traffic areas, industrial zones | **Pavement:** none | **Planting concepts:** Prairie planting

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: pyramidal, narrow pyramidal, wide pyramidal | **Crown structure:** semi-open | **Height:** 15 - 25 m | **Width:** 8 - 12 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 4A - 9B

ASPECTS

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

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: raceme, discrete, standing | **Flower colour:** yellow, red-violet | **Flowering period:** May - May | **Leaf colour:** blue-green | **Leaves:** evergreen, needles or scales, long needles, polished, scented | **Fruits:** striking, large, cones | **Fruit colour:** brown | **Bark colour:** grey-brown, grey-green | **Bark:** deeply furrowed, smooth, later on rough | **Twig colour:** grey-brown | **Twigs:** hairy, horizontal branches | **Root system:** deep, extensive, central root