



Pinus bungeana Lacebark Pine¹

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INTRODUCTION

Lacebark Pine is a very picturesque multi-trunked and upright, oval tree through about age 40, then begins spreading into a flattened canopy allowing filtered sunlight beneath (Fig. 1). The beautiful grey/green, mottled, exfoliating bark becomes chalky white on mature trees and is one of the best Pines for this character. Cultivated in the Orient for its striking bark, Lacebark Pine can be often seen on the grounds of Buddhist temples. Capable of reaching 75 feet in height, it is more often seen at 30 to 50 feet with a 20 to 35-foot spread and has a rounded to pyramidal outline when young. Those planting the tree will wait a long time to see the tree display its true virtue, for growth is slow at best. The stiff, two to four-inch-long needles are sharp to the touch, as are the light brown, two to three-inch-wide, rounded cones.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Scientific name: *Pinus bungeana*

Pronunciation: PIE-nus bun-jee-AY-nuh

Common name(s): Lacebark Pine

Family: *Pinaceae*

USDA hardiness zones: 4 through 8A (Fig. 2)

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: Bonsai; recommended for buffer strips around parking lots or for median strip plantings in the highway; near a deck or patio; shade tree; specimen; no proven urban tolerance

Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the tree

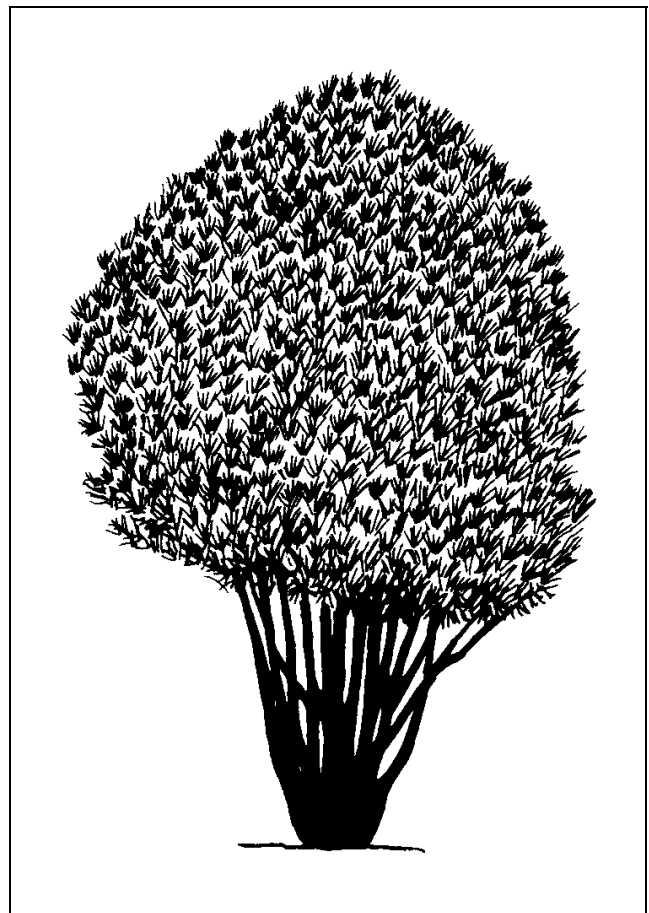


Figure 1. Mature Lacebark Pine.

DESCRIPTION

Height: 30 to 50 feet

Spread: 12 to 20 feet

Crown uniformity: symmetrical canopy with a regular (or smooth) outline, and individuals have more

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

or less identical crown forms

Crown shape: oval; pyramidal

Crown density: moderate

Growth rate: slow

Texture: fine

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: alternate; spiral (Fig. 3)

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: entire

Leaf shape: needle-like (filiform)

Leaf venation: parallel

Leaf type and persistence: evergreen; fragrant;
needle leaf evergreen

Leaf blade length: 2 to 4 inches

Leaf color: green

Fall color: no fall color change

Fall characteristic: not showy

Flower

Flower color: yellow

Flower characteristics: inconspicuous and not
showy; spring flowering

Fruit

Fruit shape: oval

Fruit length: 1 to 3 inches

Fruit covering: dry or hard

Fruit color: brown

Fruit characteristics: does not attract wildlife; no
significant litter problem; persistent on the tree; showy

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: routinely grown with, or
trainable to be grown with, multiple trunks; grow
mostly upright and will not droop; tree wants to grow
with several trunks but can be trained to grow with a
single trunk; very showy trunk; no thorns

Pruning requirement: requires pruning to develop
strong structure

Breakage: susceptible to breakage either at the crotch
due to poor collar formation, or the wood itself is
weak and tends to break

Current year twig color: green; gray

Current year twig thickness: medium

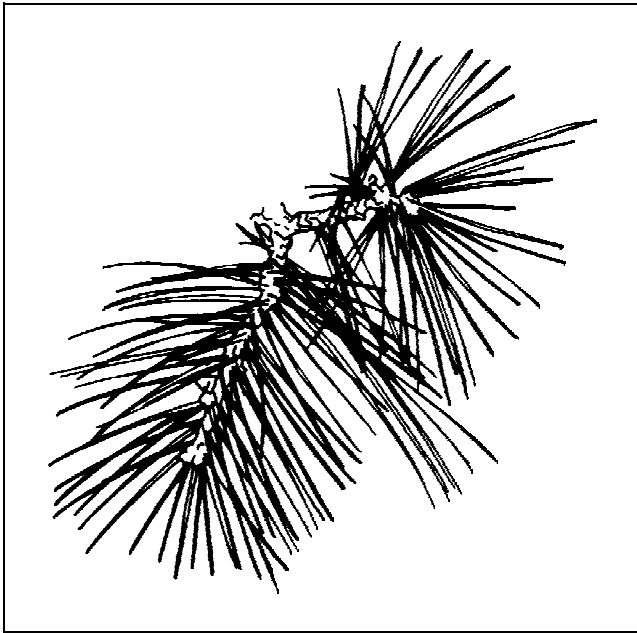


Figure 3. Foliage of Lacebark Pine.

Culture

Light requirement: tree grows in full sun

Soil tolerances: clay; loam; sand; slightly alkaline; acidic; well-drained

Drought tolerance: moderate

Other

Roots: surface roots are usually not a problem

Winter interest: tree has winter interest due to unusual form, nice persistent fruits, showy winter trunk, or winter flowers

Outstanding tree: tree has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more

Invasive potential: little, if any, potential at this time

Verticillium wilt susceptibility: not known to be susceptible

Pest resistance: long-term health usually not affected by pests

USE AND MANAGEMENT

Locate the tree where passers-by can view the trunk character, such as along a walk or near a patio or deck. Trees have a reputation for splitting apart in snow and ice storms. This can probably be largely prevented by training newly planted trees to one central leader and eliminating weakly attached trunks and branches, but this will spoil the striking multi-trunked habit so characteristic of the tree.

Growing best in full sun on well-drained, acid soil, Lacebark Pine may tolerate soil with a higher pH but should not be exposed to soils which are excessively wet or dry. The trees are also reportedly sensitive to air pollution.

Propagation is by seed or grafting.

Pests and Diseases

There are a large number of pests and diseases reported on Pine.