



# *Pinus pinea* Stone Pine<sup>1</sup>

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## INTRODUCTION

Just as its name implies, Umbrella Pine has a broad, somewhat flattened round canopy, and the tree will ultimately reach 80 to 100 feet in height though it is more often seen at 35 to 45 feet tall and wide (Fig. 1). The bright green, stiff, six-inch-long needles are arranged in slightly twisted bundles, and are joined by the heavy, five to six-inch-long cones which remain tightly closed on the tree for three years. The trunk is showy with narrow, foot-long orange plates set off nicely by darker fissures.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**Scientific name:** *Pinus pinea*

**Pronunciation:** PIE-nus pie-NEE-uh

**Common name(s):** Stone Pine, Italian Stone Pine, Umbrella Pine

**Family:** *Pinaceae*

**USDA hardiness zones:** 7 through 11 (Fig. 2)

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Uses:** Bonsai; fruit tree; large parking lot islands (> 200 square feet in size); wide tree lawns (>6 feet wide); medium-sized parking lot islands (100-200 square feet in size); medium-sized tree lawns (4-6 feet wide); recommended for buffer strips around parking lots or for median strip plantings in the highway; screen; shade tree; narrow tree lawns (3-4 feet wide); specimen; sidewalk cutout (tree pit); no proven urban tolerance

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

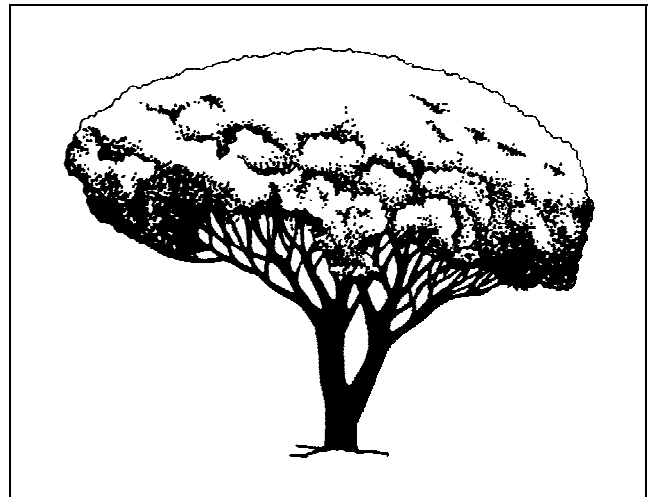


Figure 1. Mature Stone Pine.

## DESCRIPTION

**Height:** 35 to 60 feet

**Spread:** 35 to 45 feet

**Crown uniformity:** symmetrical canopy with a regular (or smooth) outline, and individuals have more or less identical crown forms

**Crown shape:** round; vase shape

**Crown density:** dense

**Growth rate:** medium

**Texture:** fine

## Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** alternate; spiral (Fig. 3)

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** entire

**Leaf shape:** needle-like (filiform)

1. This document is adapted from Fact Sheet ST-472, a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Publication date: October 1994.
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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**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; round

**Fruit length:** 1 to 3 inches

**Fruit covering:** dry or hard

**Fruit color:** brown

**Fruit characteristics:** does not attract wildlife; suited  
for human consumption; fruit, twigs, or foliage cause  
significant litter; persistent on the tree; showy

### Trunk and Branches

**Trunk/bark/branches:** grow mostly upright and will  
not droop; showy trunk; should be grown with a single  
leader; no thorns

**Pruning requirement:** needs little pruning to develop  
a strong structure

**Breakage:** resistant

**Current year twig color:** brown

**Current year twig thickness:** thick

### Culture

**Light requirement:** tree grows in full sun

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

**Drought tolerance:** high

**Aerosol salt tolerance:** high

**Soil salt tolerance:** moderate

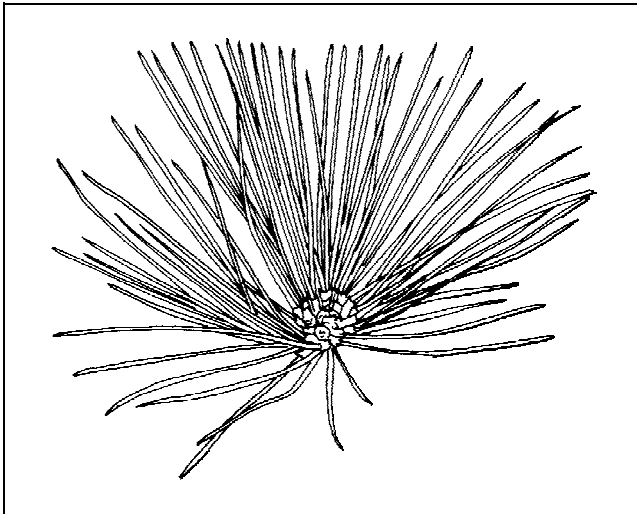
### Other

**Roots:** surface roots are usually not a problem

**Winter interest:** no special winter interest

**Outstanding tree:** not particularly outstanding

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



**Figure 3.** Foliage of Stone Pine.

### **Pests**

There are a large number of pests on Pine.

### **Diseases**

This tree is usually disease-free.

**Verticillium wilt susceptibility:** not known to be susceptible

**Pest resistance:** very sensitive to one or more pests or diseases which can affect tree health or aesthetics

## **USE AND MANAGEMENT**

It is the seeds inside the cones which are of particular interest, called pignolia or Pine nuts in the stores. The closed cones are gathered, then laid out in the direct sun which forces them to open so the seeds can be harvested. Eaten raw or roasted like peanuts, pignolia nuts are a traditional ingredient of certain Italian dishes. In fact, the tree is native to southwest Europe around the Mediterranean to Greece and Asia Minor, and remains of the cones have been discovered in Roman camps in Britain attesting to their long-time popularity.

Umbrella Pine has not been extensively tried as a street tree except in parts on California where it has done well, but has the attributes of an urban tolerant tree. Drought and salt tolerance is high making it suited for areas such as western Texas and Oklahoma. Grows well in soil with a pH in the mid 7's or lower, but may do poorly with higher pH. Umbrella Pine should be grown in full sun on well-drained soil. Winter winds and low temperature in USDA hardiness zone 7a cause needles to brown and they remain unsightly all winter.

Propagation is by seed.