



## *Pinus bungeana* Lacebark Pine<sup>1</sup>

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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

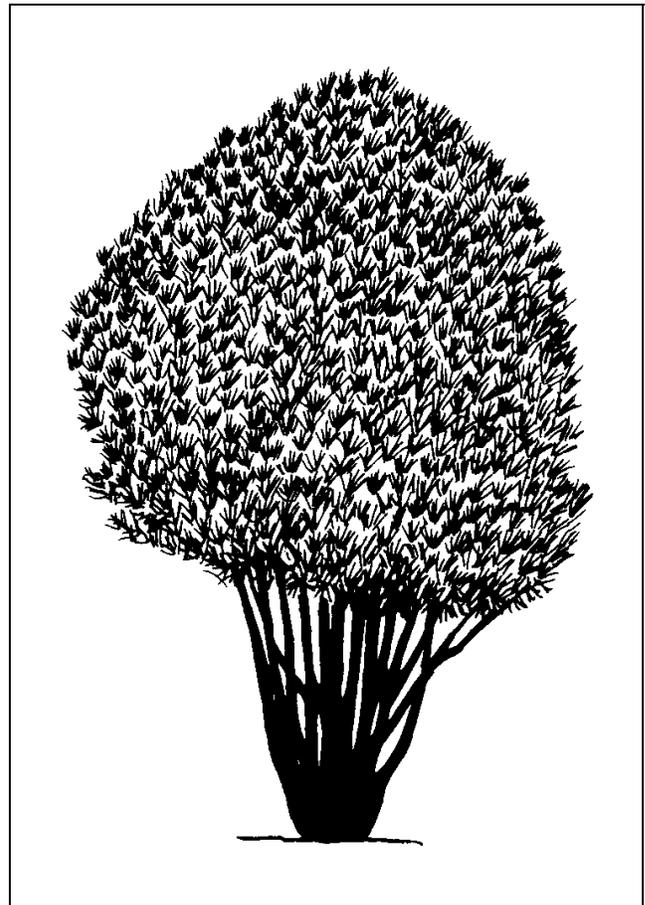


Figure 1. Mature Lacebark Pine.

### 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

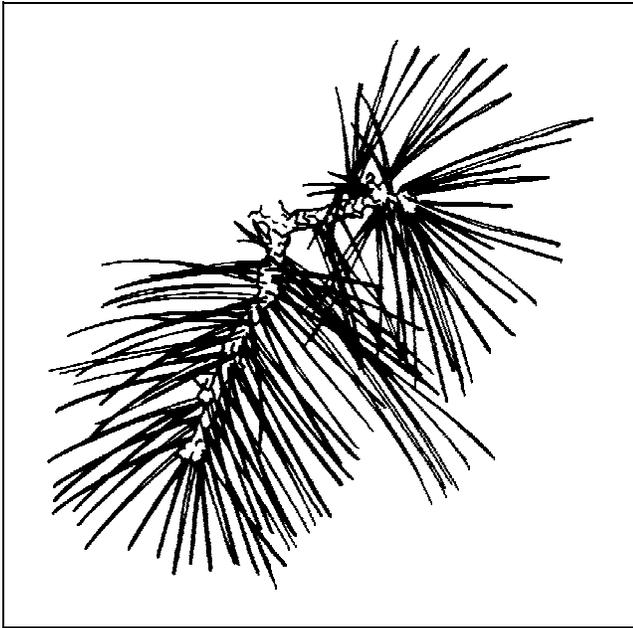


Figure 3. Foliage of Lacebark Pine.

### 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.