



Pinus taeda 'Nana' 'Nana' Loblolly Pine¹

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INTRODUCTION

Loblolly Pine is a North American native which is usually seen from 50 to 80 feet tall with a 30-foot-spread though it is capable of reaching more than 150 feet in height (Fig. 1). This cultivar probably grows to only 10 to 20 feet in height making it ideal for use as a specimen or screen. It has a dense, rounded silhouette and may become popular, especially for small-scale landscapes, once people discover it. The pyramidal, dense form stays with the tree throughout its life making it ideal for screening. It does not appear to lose its lower limbs as it grows older as does the species. The six to nine-inch-long evergreen needles turn light green during the winter. The often-paired cones are three to six inches long, red/brown, and have very sharp spines. They persist on the tree for several years and mature in the fall. The bark of Loblolly Pine is very thick which helps make this tree very resistant to fire in the wild.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Scientific name: *Pinus taeda* 'Nana'

Pronunciation: PIE-nus TEE-duh

Common name(s): 'Nana' Loblolly Pine

Family: *Pinaceae*

USDA hardiness zones: 6B through 9 (Fig. 2)

Origin: native to North America

Uses: Bonsai; container or above-ground planter; recommended for buffer strips around parking lots or for median strip plantings in the highway; screen; specimen; no proven urban tolerance

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

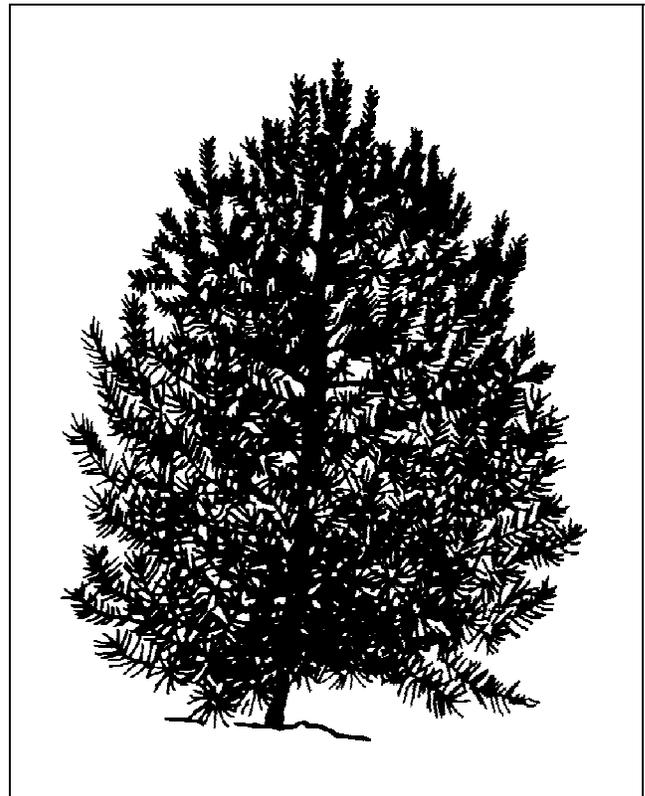


Figure 1. Young 'Nana' Loblolly Pine.

DESCRIPTION

Height: 15 to 20 feet

Spread: 15 to 20 feet

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

Crown shape: round

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Crown density: dense

Growth rate: slow

Texture: fine

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: alternate; spiral

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: 8 to 12 inches; 4 to 8 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 (Fig. 3)

Fruit length: 3 to 6 inches

Fruit covering: dry or hard

Fruit color: brown

Fruit characteristics: attracts squirrels and other
mammals; 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; not particularly showy; 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: medium; thick

Wood specific gravity: 0.51

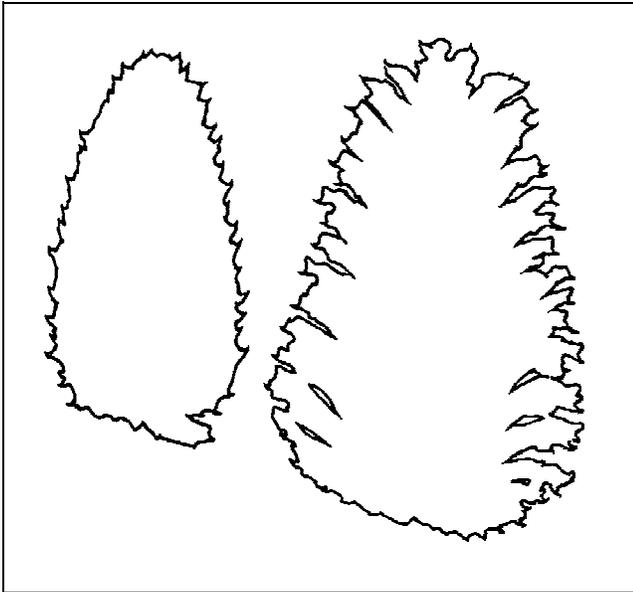


Figure 3. Fruit of 'Nana' Loblolly Pine.

Culture

Light requirement: tree grows in full sun

Soil tolerances: clay; loam; sand; acidic; occasionally wet; well-drained

Drought tolerance: moderate

Aerosol salt tolerance: moderate

Soil salt tolerance: poor

Other

Roots: surface roots are usually not a problem

Winter interest: no special winter interest

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

Pines are often grouped together in a landscape and they are becoming more popular for planting in parks and in commercial landscapes. They create a denser shade than the species which can shade out grass and other sun-loving plants beneath the canopy.

Loblolly Pine should be grown in full sun on well-drained, acid soil. It is highly drought-tolerant once established.

Pests

It may be infected by pine bark beetle, borers, pine tip moth, and sawflies.

Diseases

It is susceptible to fusiform rust and heart rot.