

Pinus caribaea

[Synonyms : *Pinus bahamensis*]

CARIBBEAN PINE is an evergreen tree. Native to Central America and the Caribbean (especially western Cuba), it has needle-like leaves and small, glossy reddish-brown cones.

It is also known as Bahamas pine, Bahamas pitch pine, *Borovice karibská* (Czech), Caribbean pitch pine, Cuban pine, *Karibianmänty* (Finnish), *Karibische Kiefer* (German), *Ocote* (Guatemalan, Honduran, Mexican, Nicaraguan), *Paina* (Samoan), *Paini* (Tongan), Slash pine, and Swamp pine.

The tree is a source of resin and turpentine.

Caribaea means ‘of or from the Caribbean, or the Lesser Antilles’.

Large mining projects and ever-increasing commercial demand for woodpulp have been major factors contributing to unacceptable inroads on natural forest in the Amazonian region in the 20th Century. The latter particularly has led to the Brazilian Jari Project established in the 1970s. With a very shaky start the Project’s aim was to site plantations of certain species strategically to provide sufficient material for pulp mills and ease pressure on natural habitats. Initial assessments indicated that plantations of appropriate species could be at least twenty times more productive than felling trees in the wild. Caribbean pine [with *Eucalyptus* and Malay bush, *Gmelina arborea*] was used and at the turn of the 20th and 21st Centuries authorities were daring to hope that the Project might prove to be successful.

The heavy, hard and strong, golden- to reddish-brown wood has been used for joinery, manufacturing plywood, general construction, general carpentry, pulp as already referred to (and thereby paper products as well) and flooring. In addition it has been used for boatbuilding, and for making railway sleepers, vats and utility poles.