

Pinus echinata

[Synonyms : *Pinus mitis*]

SHORTLEAF PINE is an evergreen tree. Native to south-eastern United States it has needle-like leaves and tiny grey cones.

It is also known as Arkansas pine, Arkansas shortleaf pine, Arkansas soft pine, *Borovice ježatá* (Czech), Bull pine, Carolina pine, Forest pine, North Carolina pine, North Carolina yellow pine, Oldfield pine, Pitch pine, Poor pine, Rosemary pine, Rosemary shortleaf, Shortleaf yellow pine, Shortleaved pine, Shortstraw pine, Slash pine, South Carolina pine, Southern pine, Southern yellow pine, Spruce pine, Virginia yellow pine, Yellow pine, Yellow shortleaf pine, and Yellow yellow pine.

The flowers are pollinated by the wind. Some authorities claim that the cones are the smallest of this genus.

Warning – prolonged contact with the fresh wood can cause dermatitis and allergic breathing problems.

The tree is protected in the wild in Illinois in the United States where it is considered to be endangered.

The tree has been a source of turpentine.

Echinata is derived from Greek *echino-* (hedgehog, sea urchin) component meaning 'hedgehog-like or covered with prickles'.

For the North American Cherokee Indians the strong reddish brown wood provided building and carving material. They made their 30-40 ft. long canoes from it.

The tree provided an ingredient which the Cherokee tribe used to treat distemper in dogs.

It was a source of medicine for several North American Indian tribes. While the tar was taken as a strong laxative by the Nanticoke tribe, Rappahannock Indians included grated dried bark as an ingredient in a potion used to cause vomiting. The buds were employed by the Choctaw Indians for treating worms.

Apparently shortleaf pine is a state emblem for Arkansas in the United States – as well as loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*).

The tiny cones have been used in floral decorations and the whole tree has served as a Christmas tree for some areas in the United States. It has also been cultivated as an ornamental (despite according to some authorities the tendency for needles, cones and dead branches to drop off frequently).

Songbirds and wild turkeys, doves, quail, woodpeckers and larks, as well as some deer, squirrels and small mammals, find food and shelter in the tree at various stages of its life.

The wood, one of several referred to today as Southern yellow pine, has received wide popularity for construction and has also been used for veneering, pulping and building interiors. When preserved it has been used for railway sleepers, bridges, docks, piling, mine supports and poles. It has also been made into barrels, crates and boxes and some authorities note its extensive use today for manufacturing plywood.