

Pinus palustris

[Synonyms : *Pinus australis*, *Pinus australis* var. *filius*, *Pinus elliottii*, *Pinus longifolia*]

LONGLEAF PINE is an evergreen tree. Native to the south-eastern United States (particularly the Gulf of Mexico) it has with needle-like leaves and large cylindrical, dull reddish-brown cones.

It is also known as American frankincense, American longleaf pine, American pitch pine, *Borovice bahenní* (Czech), Broom pine, Brown pine, Colophony, Fat pine, Figured tree, Florida long-leaved pine, Florida pine, Florida yellow pine, Georgia heart pine, Georgia long-leaved pine, Georgia pine, Georgia pitch pine, Georgia yellow pine, Gulf Coast pitch pine, Hard pine, Heart pine, Hill pine, Largeleaf pine, Longleaf, Longleaf yellow pine, Long-leaved pitch pine, Long-leaved yellow pine, Longstraw pine, North Carolina pitch pine, *Pitchpin du Sud* (French), Pitch pine, *Pitkäneulasmänty* (Finnish), Red pine, Rosemary pine, Slash pine, Southern hard pine, Southern heart pine, Southern pine, Southern pitch pine, Southern yellow pine, *Sumpfkiefer* (German), Swamp pine, Tea pine, Texas longleaf pine, Texas long-leaved yellow pine, Texas yellow pine, Turpentine pine, Yellow pine, and Yellow-pitch pine; and in flower language it is said to be a symbol of philosophy.

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

The resin (known as ‘wood turpentine’) is obtained from the residue from pulping the wood. *Palustris* is derived from Latin *palus* (bog, marsh) meaning ‘of or from bogs, swamps or marshes’.

Carpets were once woven from the leaves of this species.

The oil has many commercial uses today. It can be used in soap manufacture, polishes, sealing wax, varnishes, printing inks, fireworks, plastics and artists’ cleaning fluid.

In the past its heavy, hard and strong wood was particularly sought after for shipbuilding and construction, as well as for making railway coaches. When preserved it was also used for piling, railway sleepers, mine supports and poles. This durable light red to orange timber has been used for making barrels, crates and boxes too – and today is said to be of particular value in the manufacture of plywood. Today it is used for general joinery, and for paper pulp.

In the United States it was adopted as a state emblem by Alabama in 1997 and by North Carolina in 1963.

Medicinally, the resin is used in ointment and liniment to treat skin diseases, boils, ulcers and gonorrhoea. The wood turpentine is an ingredient today in pharmaceutical products, including medical dressings.