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Pinus serotina

[Synonyms : *Pinus rigida* var. *serotina*]

POND PINE is an evergreen tree. Native to south-eastern United States it has needle-like leaves and small, creamy- to reddish-brown cones.

It is also known as Bay pine, Black-bark pine, Marsh pine, and Pocosin pine.

The flowers are pollinated by the wind.

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

Serotina is derived from Latin *serotini*- (late) component meaning ‘late in flowering or ripening’ with reference to the cones which remain closed for several years and often open after a fire.

The common name Pocosin pine describes the tree’s preferred habitat – *pocosin* is an Indian word for ‘bog’ or ‘pond’.

The tree has provided a local source of turpentine and in some areas the soft wood has been used for pulp.

Deer will browse on the young shoots, and birds and rodents eat the tiny, darkly mottled, pale brown seeds. A particular species of endangered woodpecker, known locally as the red-cockaded woodpecker, happily makes its nest in pond pine and the trees also provide it with invaluable cover.