

RED PINE

Pinus resinosa Ait.

Red or Norway pine, though common, is found only locally throughout the state, growing on dry, rocky ridges, or light, sandy soil. Groves are usually scattered through forests of other species. The beautiful "Cathedral Pines" occur near Eustis.

The young trees have the branches extending to the ground and form a conical outline. Later, the head is rounded and picturesque. Branches are generally horizontal. It attains a height of 60-80 feet, and a diameter of 2-3 feet. The trunk is straight and tapers slowly. Red pine is intolerant to shade.

The **bark** is divided into broad, flat ridges by shallow fissures.

The **leaves** are arranged in clusters of 2, and are 4-6 inches long, dark green, soft and flexible. They break cleanly, at a sharp angle, when doubled between the fingers.

The **cones** are much like an egg in shape, about 2 inches long, and borne on short stalks. The base of fallen cones is hollow. They mature in the fall of the second season and usually remain on the branches until the following summer. Cones may be collected for seeds from September throughout the fall and winter, due to their gradual release of seed.

The **wood** is a little heavier and harder than white pine, close grained, hard and fairly strong. It is used for lumber, poles, piles, building construction, and pulp. It treats readily with wood preservatives and therefore is a locally produced alternative to southern yellow pine. An expanding pole market allows for use of shorter stems removed in thinning. Older stands produce large, high-value poles.

Owing to the reddish bark, and the pale red heart wood, the name "red pine" is appropriate. The name "Norway pine" refers to its original finding near Norway, Maine. Since it infers that the tree is foreign in origin, use of this name is not encouraged.

