



JACK PINE *Pinus banksiana* Lamb.



The cones of the jack pine usually remain closed for several years unless exposed to extreme heat, and often do not fall for 12–15 years.

Jack or gray pine grows on sandy, rocky, shallow acidic soils. It is known to occur naturally at Alamoosook Lake in Orland, Schoodic Point in Winter Harbor, Great Wass Island in Beals, Matagamon Lake, Cliff Lake, Lobster Lake, and in the areas south and west of Jackman.

The spreading **branches** are long and flexible, and form an open head symmetrical in outline. At maturity the tree is about 50–60 feet tall and 8–10 inches in diameter. Trees in the coastal populations tend to be much shorter and usually have a picturesque, gnarled look. **Cones** are often produced when the trees are only a few years old.





Jack pine cones are curved and persist on the tree for many years.

The **bark** is thin with irregular rounded ridges. It is dark brown with a slight tinge of red. The **leaves** are in clusters of two, and are $\frac{3}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches long. They are stout, yellow-green at first, dark green later, rather flat, and twisted at the base. The cones require 2 years to mature, are rather slender, $1\frac{1}{2}$ –2 inches long, lack a stalk and are curved. The scales have minute prick-

les that are often deciduous. The cones usually remain closed for several years unless exposed to extreme heat, and often do not fall for 12–15 years.

The **wood** is moderately hard, heavy, and close-grained. It is used mostly for pulp; historically it was used for firewood and box boards.



Jack pines growing on the coast in eastern Maine are often stunted and gnarled.

