



SCOTS (SCOTCH) PINE *Pinus sylvestris* L.

Scots pine is the most widely distributed pine in the world but is not native to Maine. A native of northern Europe and Asia, it grows naturally from Scotland almost to the Pacific Ocean and from above the Arctic Circle in Scandinavia to the Mediterranean. In parts of its native range, Scots pine grows to be a tall timber tree in dense stands. There are many strains of this species; the trees that have been planted in Maine often have very poor growth habits. This, plus its susceptibility to snow, porcupine and bird injury, makes it undesirable for timber production here. Scots pine will grow on very poor soils. Some strains are planted for Christmas trees, and it has been widely used in ornamental plantings.

The **bark** in the crown region of medium to large trees has conspicuous orange coloration. The lower bark of

mature trees is gray to red-brown and has irregular ridges and furrows.

The **leaves** are needles in clusters of two. They are 1½–3 inches long, stout, stiff, twisted, dull blue-green with distinctive lines of stomata.

The **cones** are 1½–2 inches long and numerous, even on comparatively young trees; the scales are armed with small, blunt spines.

The **wood** is similar in character to red pine; however, due to its poor form, in Maine it is seldom used for lumber. It is occasionally used for pulp and fuel.

Scots pine, as the name suggests, is not native to Maine.

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Scots Pine Circumference: 124" Height: 60' Crown Spread: 45' Location: Falmouth

