

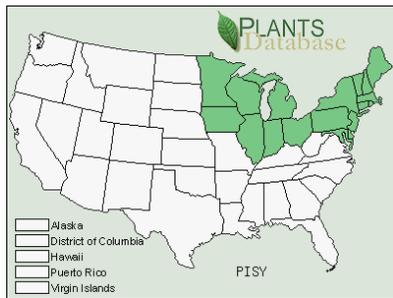
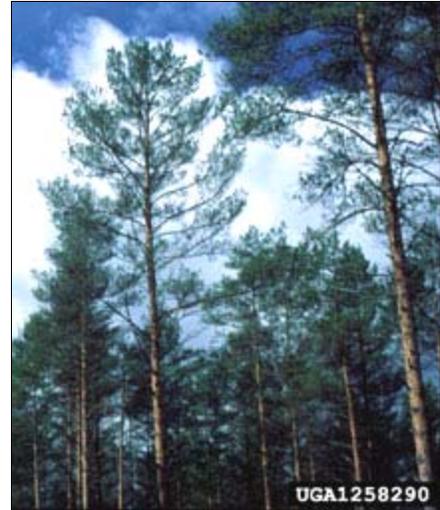


# Scots Pine *Pinus sylvestris* L.

**Common Names:** Scotch pine, Scots pine

**Native Origin:** Europe

**Description:** A coniferous tree in the pine family (*Pinaceae*) reaching 70 to 120 feet in height and a diameter of 3 to 5 feet. The bark is silvery gray and shiny when young, then becoming reddish brown, fissured and scaly when older. Brittle twigs are dark, yellowish-gray, and smooth. Needles are 1½ to 3½ inches long, bluish-green or dark green, stout, and born in bundles of 2 or rarely 3. The cones are 1½ to 2½ inches long, short-stalked, solitary or in pairs, usually pointing backward, and grayish or reddish in color. It reproduces by seeds that range from tan to almost black and vary in size according to the geographic area. The root system is made up of horizontal roots close to the surface and a taproot.



**Habitat:** It is located in old fields, roadsides, open bogs, and open forested areas. It prefers fine sands, silt loams to silty clay loams, and very well drained to moderately well drained soils with pH range of 4.5 to 6.0. It is adapted to a wide variety of climates. It can live in areas with annual precipitation ranging from 8 to 70 inches. It can survive middle altitude temperatures of the Mediterranean to severely cold winter temperatures to -83° F where the subsoil is permanently frozen.

**Distribution:** This species is reported from states shaded on Plants Database map. It is reported invasive in HI, IA, MA, ME, NJ, NY, OH, PA, VT, and WI.

**Ecological Impacts:** Scots pine is the most widely distributed pine in the world. It has been naturalized in northern New York. The associated trees are black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), sugar maple (*A. saccharum*), American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), and eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus*). In many areas the aggressive reproductive habit established a mat of seedlings, and has concerned foresters. Where Scots pine has been intermixed with red or white pine at planting, the Scotch pine grows so much more aggressively during the first few years that its roots crowd out roots of the other species leaving only Scots pine.

### Control and Management:



- **Manual-** Hand pull young seedlings; cut larger trees
- **Chemical-** It can be effectively controlled using any of several readily available general use herbicides such as glyphosate or triclopyr. Follow label and state requirements.

**Natural Enemies:** Some of the natural enemies include: coneworm larvae (*Dioryctria* spp.), tip moths (*Rhyacionia* spp.) and the pine root collar weevil (*Hylobius radialis*) that is a major cause of tree death in young plantations in the Lake States.

**References:** [www.forestimages.org](http://www.forestimages.org), <http://plants.usda.gov>, [www.nps.gov/plants/alien](http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien), [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/commontr/scotspin.htm](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/commontr/scotspin.htm), [http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/silvics\\_manual/Volume\\_1/pinus/sylvestris.htm](http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/silvics_manual/Volume_1/pinus/sylvestris.htm)