PLANT FACT SHEET

Pinus contorta Douglas ex Loudon

GENUS *Pinus* **FAMILY** Pinaceae

COMMON NAMES Beach Pine, Lodge Pole Pine, Shore Pine

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Wood, Bark, Gum, Shoots, Leaves - tea

The needles are used to make tea.
The soft inner bark can be eaten.
The seeds can be eaten.
The gum is chewed.

DESCRIPTION

A medium sized tree. It grows to 30 m high and can be 100 cm across the trunk. The trunk is often straight with a little taper. The branches are slender and short. The needles are in bundles of 2. They are 3-7 cm long. They are usually twisted and stiff and have a very sharp point. They do not spread apart and the edges have sharp teeth. The twigs are orange-brown. The seed cones are oval and 3-6 cm long. They are purplish-brown. They are stalkless and at right angles to the branch. They may point slightly backwards. They occur in small clusters at the nodes. The remain on the tree for 10-20 years and remain closed. The scales are thickened at the tips. They have a prickle which curves backwards. The cones open when exposed to the heat from a fire. The seeds are brown and mottled. They have a ridge on one side. They are 3 mm long and with a wing.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It grows on a wide range of soils. It can grow in wet depressions. It regenerates after fire. Botanical Gardens Hobart. Melbourne Botanical Gardens. It suits hardiness zones 5-9.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

The cones can remain unopen of the forest floor for many years. The cones open after fire and the seeds then quickly germinate.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Seed production begins after 5-10 years and good crops occur every 1-3 years. Trees can live for 200 years.

NOTES

There are over 100 species of Pinus.

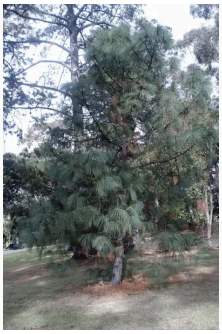
PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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