



loblolly pine

Pinus taeda

Kingdom: Plantae
Division/Phylum: Coniferophyta
Class:
Order:
Family:

FEATURES

The loblolly pine is also known as the old-field pine. This coniferous tree may grow to a height of 125 feet and a trunk diameter of two feet. It has a rounded crown. The red-brown bark is divided into plates. The leaves are needlelike, in clusters of three. Each light green needle may be nine inches long. Staminate (male) flowers are grouped in yellow spikes up to one-half inch long. Pistillate (female) flowers are in yellow clusters. The fruit is a cone, which may grow to six inches long. Each cone scale has a short, sharp prickle. The rounded seed measures about one-fourth inch long with a wing about one inch long.

BEHAVIORS

The loblolly pine is a native of the southern United States but is planted statewide in Illinois. It grows in dry sites. The wood is used for pulpwood and construction. Old cones often remain on the tree.

HABITATS

- bottomland forests
- coniferous forest
- southern Illinois lowlands
- upland deciduous forest

ILLINOIS STATUS

- common
- endangered
- threatened
- native
- exotic

ILLINOIS RANGE

Permanent resident: statewide

Summer resident:

Migrant:

Winter resident:

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.
Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume 2: Woodland Habitats CD-ROM.