



shortleaf pine

Pinus echinata

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

FEATURES

The shortleaf pine is also known as the yellow pine. This coniferous tree may attain a height of 80 feet and a trunk diameter of two feet. Its crown is rounded or pyramid-shaped. The red-brown bark is broken into large plates. Blue-green needles grow in clusters of two or three. The flexible needles may be five inches long. Male (staminate) flowers are arranged in purple spikes up to three-fourths inch long. Female (pistillate) flowers are in rose-colored groups of one to three. The fruit is an ovoid cone. Cones grow in groups of one to three. Each cone may be two and one-half inches long, and each cone scale has a sharp prickle. The triangular seed is less than one-fourth inch long with a wing about one-half inch long.

BEHAVIORS

The shortleaf pine is a native of Randolph and Union counties in Illinois but is planted statewide. This tree grows naturally in dry, rocky soil. The wood is used for interior finishing, paper pulp and construction.

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.