

## Plant Profiles: HORT 2242 Landscape Plants II

**Botanical Name:** *Pinus nigra*

**Common Name:** Austrian pine

**Family Name:** Pinaceae – pine family

**General Description:** *Pinus nigra* is a large evergreen tree. Tolerant of urban conditions, Austrian pine was frequently planted in the residential and commercial landscape. However, its susceptibility to Diplodia tip blight limits its use today. Native to Europe, a naturalized stand of *Pinus nigra* has been documented at Illinois State Beach in Lake County Illinois.

**Zone:** 3-7

**Resources Consulted:**

Davis, Becke. "ILCA Presents-Pines: A Perpetual Favorite." *Landscape Contractor* May 2003: 29-33. Print.

Dirr, Michael A. *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants: Their Identification, Ornamental Characteristics, Culture, Propagation and Uses*. Champaign: Stipes, 2009. Print.

"The PLANTS Database." *USDA, NRCS*. National Plant Data Team, Greensboro, NC 27401-4901 USA, 2014. Web. 23 Jan. 2014.

Swink, Floyd, and Gerould Wilhelm. *Plants of the Chicago Region*. Indianapolis: Indiana Academy of Science, 1994. Print.

**Creator:** Julia Fitzpatrick-Cooper, Professor, College of DuPage

**Creation Date:** 2014

**Keywords/Tags:** Pinaceae, tree, conifer, cone, needle, evergreen, *Pinus nigra*, Austrian pine



**Whole plant/Habit:**

- Description: When young, *Pinus nigra* has a broad pyramidal habit. The branches, which are held low on the trunk and the dark, dense foliage creates a very bold and recognizable outline.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: January 22, 2011
- Image File Name: austrian\_pine\_3363.png

**Whole plant/Habit:**

- Description: With age the crown becomes flat-topped and picturesque. As the lower branches shed the ridged and furrowed bark develops a striped, zebra-like effect.
- Image Source: Richard Webb, Self-employed horticulturist, Bugwood.org
- Image Date: Unknown
- Image File Name: 1480709-SMPT.jpg

**Bark:**

- Description: The chalky pinkish-white ridges with dark gray/black furrows create the classic striped effect of the mature bark.
- Image Source: Richard Webb, Self-employed horticulturist, Bugwood.org
- Image Date: Unknown
- Image File Name: 5348046-SMPT.jpg

**Branch/Twig:**

- Description: The stout stems of Austrian pine are yellow brown when young maturing to gray with rough projections where the needles were attached. The young stems are glabrous.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: January 22, 2011
- Image File Name: austrian\_pine\_3361.png



**Bud:**

- Description: The terminal bud of *Pinus nigra* is large (up to 1 inch), pointed, and covered in white resin with cinnamon brown reflexed scales. It is often referred to as “star-like” or “flower-like”. The bud is a good identification feature.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: January 25, 2011
- Image File Name: austrian\_pine\_1240840.png

**Flower:**

- Description: Though not true flowers the reproductive structures on pines are often referred to as such. Pines are monoecious; producing male pollen cones (on left) and separate female seed cones (on right) all on the same plant. Male pollen cones are clustered at the base of new growth. Female cones form near the tip of new growth. The color phases can vary according to species. Note: This photo is meant to show general images for “flowers”. The images are not from the same pine species and may not be of the same species referenced in this Plant Profile.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: Early June
- Image File Name: pinus\_flower-00.png

**Cone:**

- Description: The 2-3 inch brown cones have a slight prickle or snout on the umbo. The cone is similar to *Pinus ponderosa* but the latter cone is larger with a more obvious and sharp prickle.
- NOTE: The thickened exposed part of each cone scale is called the *apophysis*. The *umbo* is the terminal protuberance on the tip of the apophysis. The umbo may be prickled or just slightly raised or pointed.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: February 8, 2011
- Image File Name: austrian\_pine\_1250280c.png



#### Leaf Number/Attachment:

- Description: Austrian pine is a 2-needle pine with stiff, sharp, dark green needles. Verify the identification of *Pinus nigra* by gently patting the tip of the stem. It will be very sharp to the touch. The needles radiate out from the stem and remain for 5 or more years. Notice the density of foliage on this image.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: January 25, 2011
- Image File Name: austrian\_pine\_1240841.png



#### Winter interest:

- Description: The bold visually dominating character of *Pinus nigra* is especially evident in the winter landscape.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: January 19, 2014
- Image File Name: austrian\_pine\_4332.png



#### Special ID feature(s):

- Description: The stiff sharp needles of this 2-needle pine along with the large flower-like terminal bud make Austrian pine easy to identify.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: January 22, 2011
- Image File Name: austrian\_pine\_3356.png