

Plant Profiles: HORT 2242 Landscape Plants II

Botanical Name: *Pinus parviflora*

Common Name: Japanese white pine

Family Name: Pinaceae – pine family

General Description: *Pinus parviflora* is an elegant evergreen tree that should be used more in the ornamental landscape. The soft, fine texture is similar to our native white pine (*Pinus strobus*) but it is actually better suited for landscape use as it is of smaller stature and is more tolerant of urban conditions than white pine. According to Missouri Botanical Garden, the typical form sold in the United States is glaucous or blue-needled with a wide variety of cultivars now included in Glauca Group. Japanese white pine is a favorite among many conifer specialists including Rich Eyre of Rich's Foxwillow Pine, Woodstock IL. Rich has been touting the merits of this plant for decades and lists a wide variety of cultivars in his nursery catalog. College of DuPage now has several plantings of *Pinus parviflora* on campus.

Zone: 4-7

Resources Consulted:

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

Missouri Botanical Garden. Missouri Botanical Garden, n.d. Web. 29 Jan. 2014.

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Creation Date: 2014

Keywords/Tags: Pinaceae, tree, conifer, cone, needle, evergreen, *Pinus parviflora*, Japanese white pine



Whole plant/Habit:

- Description: *Pinus parviflora* is a graceful tree with irregular spreading branches and a soft texture.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: August 31, 2012
- Image File Name: japanese_white_pine_4463.png



Bark:

- Description: The young bark is thin, gray and smooth becoming scaly with age.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: August 31, 2012
- Image File Name: japanese_white_pine_4458.png



Branch/Twig:

- Description: The young stems are covered in a soft pubescence. The older stems are glabrous.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: August 31, 2012
- Image File Name: japanese_white_pine_4460b.png



Branch/Twig:

- Description: The cones attach almost directly to the branch and remain for on the branch for many years. This is a good identification feature.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: August 31, 2012
- Image File Name: japanese_white_pine_4464.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 cones of Japanese white pine attach almost sessile to the stem, usually in clusters, and appear to stick straight out from the stem, almost horizontal. The cones are abundantly produced even on young trees and remain on the tree for 6 to 7 years. They are thick, slightly longer than broad and a rich reddish brown color. Cones are an excellent identification feature for this plant.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: August 31, 2012
- Image File Name: japanese_white_pine_4467.png



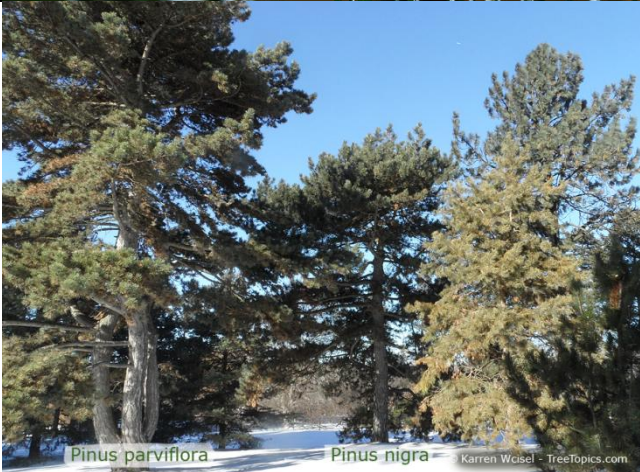
Leaf Number/Attachment:

- Description: *Pinus parviflora* is a 5-needle pine. The foliage appears tufted at the ends of the branches.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: August 31, 2012
- Image File Name: japanese_white_pine_4460.png



Leaf Number/Attachment:

- Description: The stomatal lines on the inner side of the needle create a blue/green leaf color.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: January 25, 2011
- Image File Name: japanese_white_pine_1240838.png



Winter interest:

- Description: The interesting, irregular habit looks especially attractive in winter.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: January 25, 2014
- Image File Name: japanese_white_pine_5601.png



Special ID feature(s):

- Description: The soft, blue/green foliage in 5-needled bundles and distinctive cone features are the best identify characteristics.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: August 31, 2012
- Image File Name: japanese_white_pine_4469.png