

Jejecote pine

Pinus patula Schiede & Deppe

Pine family (Pinaceae)

Post-Cook introduction

Large introduced narrow-leaf or needle-leaf evergreen tree of graceful shape, in forest plantations on moist slopes, with long slender drooping or “weeping” needles, many clustered cones remaining attached, and reddish bark on upper trunk and branches. To 95 ft (29 m) or more in height, with straight or forked trunk 1½ ft (0.5 m) in diameter. Bark with scattered warts, smoothish, papery reddish brown, becoming thick, rough, furrowed, and gray. Inner bark light brown, fibrous, spreading, resinous. Branches long and spreading, more than 1 tier or ring annually. Young twigs slender, with whitish bloom, hairless, becoming reddish brown. Winter buds cylindrical, long-pointed, ½–1 inch (1.3–2.5 cm) long, with long-pointed fringed spreading scales.

Leaves or needles usually 3 in cluster, sometimes 4–5, shiny green, yellow green when young, very slender, drooping, 4–8 inches (10–20 cm) long, only ⅓ inch (1 mm) wide, with many fine whitish lines on each surface, finely toothed edges. Sheath at base of leaves 1 inch (2.5 cm) long.

Cones crowded in clusters of 5–10, narrowly conical, 3–4½ inches (7.5–11 cm) long, shiny dark brown, 1-sided or oblique at base, stalkless or nearly so, bent down, maturing in 2 years, remaining attached with scales closed. Cone-scales with exposed end flattened and with tiny shedding prickle. Seeds paired and exposed at base of cone-scales, with triangular mottled gray black body less than ¼ inch (6 mm) long and wing ½–¾ inch (13–19 mm) long.

The specific gravity of the wood of this species was found to be 0.44 in an increment core survey (Skolmen 1963). This was denser than trees grown in New Zealand but less dense than trees grown in South Africa. The species is very important for pulp and lumber in South Africa and Swaziland but has not been utilized in Hawaii.

This subtropical pine has been planted at Waihou Spring Forest Reserve, altitude 3800 ft (1158 m) and the Kula Forest Reserve at 5500 ft (1676 m) on Maui, and at several locations on the Island of Hawaii. Trees from all the provenances tried have grown with a very steep branch angle and usually with multiple leaders.

Because of its generally poor form as a timber tree, this species has not been used in recent plantings.

Champion

Height 108 ft (32.9 m), c.b.h. 6.4 ft (2.0 m), spread 27 ft (8.2 m). Kula Forest Reserve, Maui (1968).

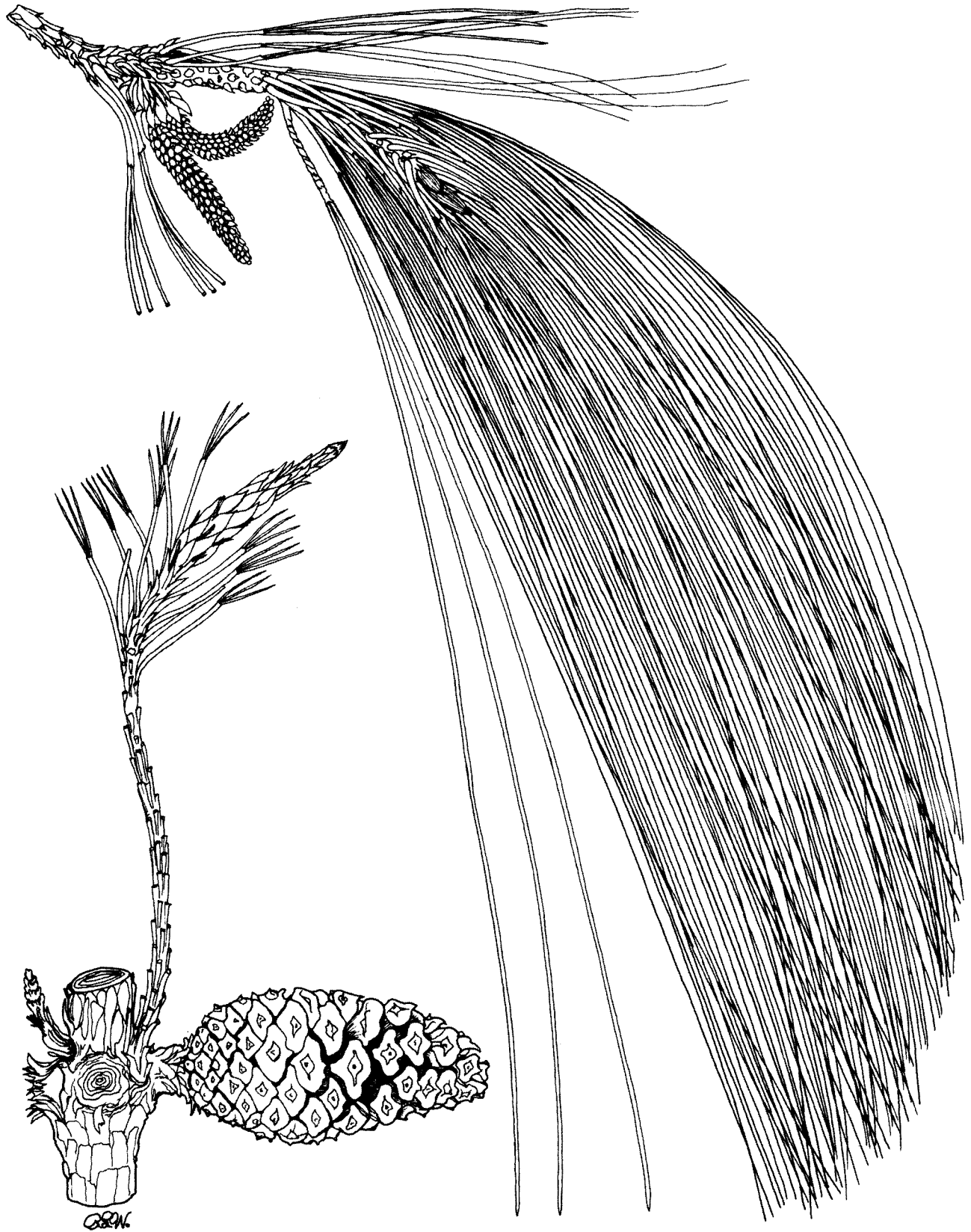
Range

Native of mountains of eastern Mexico (Tamaulipas to Oaxaca).

Planted as an ornamental in subtropical regions, it is also so used on Maui in upland gardens.

Other common name

Mexican weeping pine



Jelecote pine

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Leafy twig with male cones and twig with cone (lower left), 1 X.