

## Loblolly pine

*Pinus taeda* L.

Pine family (Pinaceae)

Post-Cook introduction

Large introduced narrow-leaf or needle-leaf evergreen tree of forest plantations on moist slopes, 70 ft (21 m) or more in height; with long straight trunk 1 ft (0.3 m) or more in diameter. Bark gray, thick, rough, deeply furrowed into long narrow scaly plates. Inner bark within thick dead outer layer, light brown, fibrous, resinous. Branches horizontal, usually 2 or more tiers or rings annually. Twigs hairless, whitish, becoming brown and ridged. Winter buds conical,  $\frac{1}{4}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$  inch (6–13 mm) long, light brown, with fringed spreading scales.

Leaves or needles 3 in cluster, stiff, spreading, 6–9 inches (15–23 cm) long, with many fine whitish lines on each surface, finely toothed edges, and sharp point. Sheath at base of leaves nearly 1 inches (2.5 cm) long.

Cones several in two or more groups, conical, symmetrical nearly stalkless, 3–5 inches (7.5–13 cm) long, symmetrical, dull brown, maturing in 2 years and shedding. Cone-scales four-sided at exposed end, with ridge and stout curved spine. Seeds paired and exposed at base of cone-scales, with mottled dark brown body  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch (6 mm) long and wing about 1 inch (2.5 cm) long.

The wood grown in Hawaii has very broad bands of summerwood and because of its fast growth, wide growth rings. Sapwood yellowish, heartwood light brown. Its specific gravity (0.42) found by increment core survey is somewhat less than that of wood grown in the southeastern states, where it is the principal softwood, but still adequate for structural strength. Used as lumber on the mainland for building material including millwork, boxes and crates, agricultural implements, and low-grade furniture. It is also an important plywood species. Veneer is used for containers. This and other southern pines are the leading native pulpwoods and leading woods in production of slack cooperage.

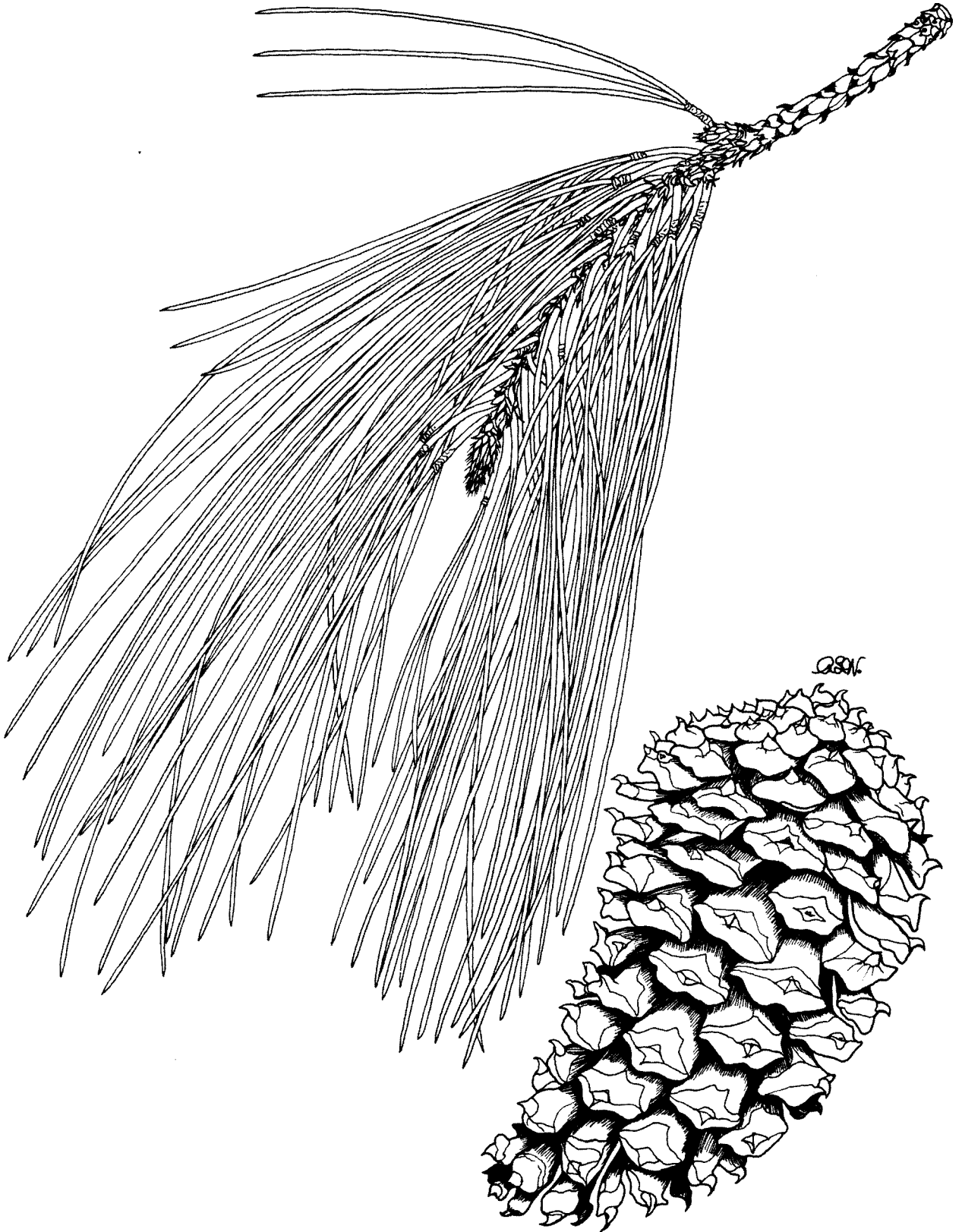
This pine is being tested in a large spacing study at Waihou Spring Forest Reserve, altitude 3800 ft (1158 m) on Maui. It has also been planted along with *Pinus elliottii* on Kauai, Molokai, and Hawaii.

### **Range**

Southeastern continental United States, Coastal Plain, and Piedmont from southern New Jersey and Delaware south to central Florida and west to eastern Texas, and north in Mississippi Valley to extreme southeastern Oklahoma, central Arkansas, and southern Tennessee

### **Other common names**

oldfield pine, shortleaf pine



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Leafy twig and cone (lower right), 1 X.