Pine, Bristlecone

Pinus aristata



Pine, Bristlecone
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 20 feet

Spread: 8 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 4a

Other Names: Hickory Pine

Description:

An interesting small evergreen tree with stark, stout branches and short needles; rather open appearance, a character tree, good for accent use in the garden; extremely long lived and slow growing, some living specimens are over 4,500 years old

Ornamental Features

Pine, Bristlecone is primarily valued in the landscape for its ornamental upright and spreading habit of growth. It has forest green evergreen foliage. The needles remain forest green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Pine, Bristlecone is an evergreen tree with a strong central leader and an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other landscape plants with finer foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance tree. When pruning is necessary, it is recommended to only trim back the new growth of the current season, other than to remove any dieback. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Pine, Bristlecone is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- General Garden Use

Planting & Growing

Pine, Bristlecone will grow to be about 20 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 8 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live to a ripe old age of 300 years or more; think of this as a heritage tree for future generations!

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This tree should only be grown in full sunlight. It prefers dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil, and will often die in standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for xeriscaping or the moisture-conserving landscape. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is quite intolerant of urban pollution, therefore inner city or urban streetside plantings are best avoided. This species is native to parts of North America.

Clean up Rating (1-5) 1=least effort 5=most effort

Clean Up Rating (3): Cones are oval shaped 2 to 3 inches long, and hang down taking 2 years to mature. Young cones are purple changing to brown as they mature. Clean up for the cones are raking and bagging them, The inside needles shed in fall or spring an be blown or raked onto the lawn and mowed or bagged. Our desert climate especially in late winter to early spring evergreens can suffer during next growing season. An easy way to remember check for dryness is on the holidays Halloween, Thanksgiving, New Year's Day, Valentines Day & Easter. During the growing season maintain regular deep watering.