

Pinus echinata

Shortleaf pine



Sources:

Natural Resources Conservation Service. *PLANTS Database*. United States Department of Agriculture.

NC State Extension. *Find a Plant*. North Carolina Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox.

The Pine Family (Pinaceae)

This tall, evergreen conifer reaches 80-100 feet tall; its dark, scaly bark develops yellow fissures; and has short needles in clusters of 2-3.

Habitat: It grows in average, moderately well-drained soils and full sun; prefers sandy loams; and is found across the eastern and southeastern U.S.

Interesting Facts: This tree retains its empty cones for multiple years, even though the seeds have already been released.

Fruit: The fruit of male cone is pale purple and the female cone is pale pink. The fruit measures 1-3 inches long.

Flower: This tree has no flowers.

Wildlife value: This tree supports the larvae of some butterflies and moths. In addition, the seeds produced inside the cones are eaten by birds, squirrels, and other small mammals.