

Scots Pine

Pinus sylvestris

Plants · Evergreen conifer · cones ripen in the second year



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A tall evergreen conifer, distinguished by blue-green needles held in pairs, and by the bark of the upper trunk and branches, which is a warm flaking orange quite unlike the grey-brown fissured bark lower down. Scots pine is Britain's only native pine. Around Dumfries it grows in shelterbelts, policy woodland and plantations, and as landmark trees on knolls and old drove roads.

BEHAVIOUR

Cones take two years to ripen and open in dry weather to release winged seed. Scots pine tolerates poor, acid, dry soils that few other trees will take. Mature open-grown pines with broad flat crowns are important for red squirrels, crossbills and, further north, capercaillie, and old pines standing alone on a skyline were often deliberately planted as waymarkers.

WHEN TO SEE IT

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QUICK FACTS

FAMILY	Pines (Pinaceae)
HEIGHT	Up to 35 m
STATUS	Native; Britain's only native pine