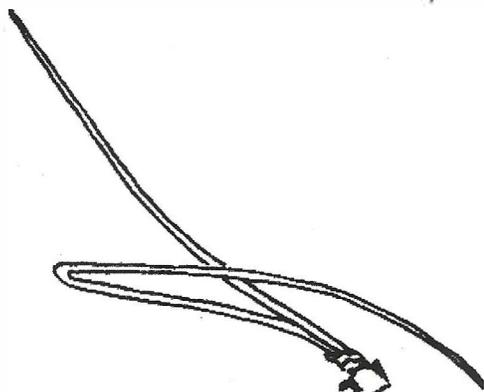


Japanese Black Pine



Pinus thunbergii



GENERAL DESCRIPTION: This tree is used extensively along coastal areas because of its salt tolerance. It is a distinctively asymmetrical tree with wide-spreading branches that contain stiff, prickly-pointed, lustrous dark green needles that are in fascicles of two. In the spring it forms elongated, silky white, candle-like buds. This is not a particularly long lived tree and generally does not grow to more than 25'. Groupings of these trees gives the landscape an open natural look.

HABIT AND SIZE: Uneven but loosely pyramidal when young becoming more asymmetrical with age developing spreading often pendulous branches.

LANDSCAPE VALUE: A wonderful plant for seaside plantings and for groupings in a larger landscape. Often used as accent trees in parks and along parkways. Smaller cultivars are useful as accent or focal points in a small "Asian" style garden. Used for bonsai plants.

LEAVES: In fascicles of 2, slender and bright green, 3-4.5" long, slightly twisted, with a stiff pointed apex, a minutely serrulate edge and stomatic lines on each surface. The persistent sheaths are about 0.5" long and ending in 2' long filaments. The leaves persist for 3-5 years.

FLOWERS: Staminate flowers axillary, clustered at the base of young shoots, catkin-like, yellow, orange, or scarlet, composed of numerous spirally arranged 2-loculed anthers with connectives enlarged and scale-like at apex. Pistillate flowers lateral or subterminal, greenish or purplish, of numerous spirally arranged scales in the axils of small bracts, each bearing 2 ovules inside.

FRUIT: Conical-ovate cones 2-3" long, brown, short-stalked, dehiscent with the scales flattened and with a small dorsal, usually prickly, umbo. The seeds are grayish-yellow, about 0.25" long and with a 0.5-0.75" wing.

BUD: The terminal buds are ovoid-cylindrical, with a pointed apex and scales that are appressed, with fringed, free tips that are gray or silvery-white.

DISEASES AND INSECTS: Almost all of the 2 needled pines are suffering from a fungal disorder that has decimated the Scotch Pine plantings.

HARDINESS AND RANGE: Zones 3-6 or 7. Japan.

CULTIVARS: 'Compacta'- dense irregular large shrub, 'Mt Hood Prostrate'- name speaks for itself, 'Mini Mounds'- as name implies.