



# EASTERN WHITE PINE

*Pinus strobus*

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## **Native Range**

Eastern white pine is native to the lake states, the northeast and the Appalachian Mountains. It is not native in Kansas.

## **Mature Size**

In Kansas it reaches a height of 50 to 80 feet and a spread of 20 to 30 feet.

## **Growth Rate**

This plant grows 12 to 40 inches per year.

## **Leaves, Stems and Fruit**

With its medium green to blue-green, soft, delicate appearing foliage, it is a very attractive tree. Young trees are symmetrical and pyramidal in shape. Older trees have several horizontal and ascending branches which are plum like in outline.

White pine needles are soft, 3 to 5 inches long, persisting 2 or 3 years and in groups of 5. The resinous cones are 6 to 8 inches long and 2 to 2 ½ inches wide.

## **Use**

### Christmas Trees

White pine Christmas trees command premium prices for their soft, delicate foliage. Some people, however, are critical of their (1) tendency to winter burn causing the foliage to turn brownish, (2) limber branches which may not support heavy ornaments and (3) a tenancy for a lower survival rate as compared to Scotch and Austrian pine. In spite of these problems, most growers who can, will grow some white pine in their plantation.

### Windbreaks

This tree makes a very pretty windbreak, but its use is limited due to susceptibility to ice breakage. Its rapid growth results in a rather open windbreak.

## **Adaptation**

Eastern third of Kansas.

## **Soil**

White pine seedlings are intolerant of prolonged periods of drought or wet soil and high temperatures. They grow best on a cool, moist, fertile, well-drained site. They do not grow well

on a clayey soil.

**Spacing**

Normal spacing when planted as Christmas trees is 6 ½ x 6 ½ feet.

**Culture**

Two or three year-old, bare-root seedlings (8 to 12 inches tall) are used in plantings. They are more sensitive and tend to have lower survival rate than other pines. Typically the seedlings grow very little in height until the third year. During this establishment period, supplemental watering and control of competing weeds and grass will aid survival and initial growth. Protection from summer winds will also help.

**Pests**

Occasional trees are killed by pine wilt.