



Pinus ularica Mondell Pine¹

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INTRODUCTION

Growing rapidly when young, Mondell Pine reaches heights of 30 to 40 feet and is quite dense (Fig. 1). This tree stands out among the pines due to the upright growth habit that stays with the tree throughout its life. The paired, medium green needles are five to 6.5 inches long and joined by three-inch-long cones. The tree is most often grown in parts of Texas.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Scientific name: *Pinus ularica*

Pronunciation: PIE-nus ell-DAR-ick-uh

Common name(s): Mondell Pine

Family: *Pinaceae*

USDA hardiness zones: 6 through 8 (Fig. 2)

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: Bonsai; recommended for buffer strips around parking lots or for median strip plantings in the highway; reclamation plant; specimen; no proven urban tolerance

Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the tree

DESCRIPTION

Height: 30 to 40 feet

Spread: 25 to 30 feet

Crown uniformity: symmetrical canopy with a regular (or smooth) outline, and individuals have more or less identical crown forms

Crown shape: pyramidal; upright

Crown density: moderate

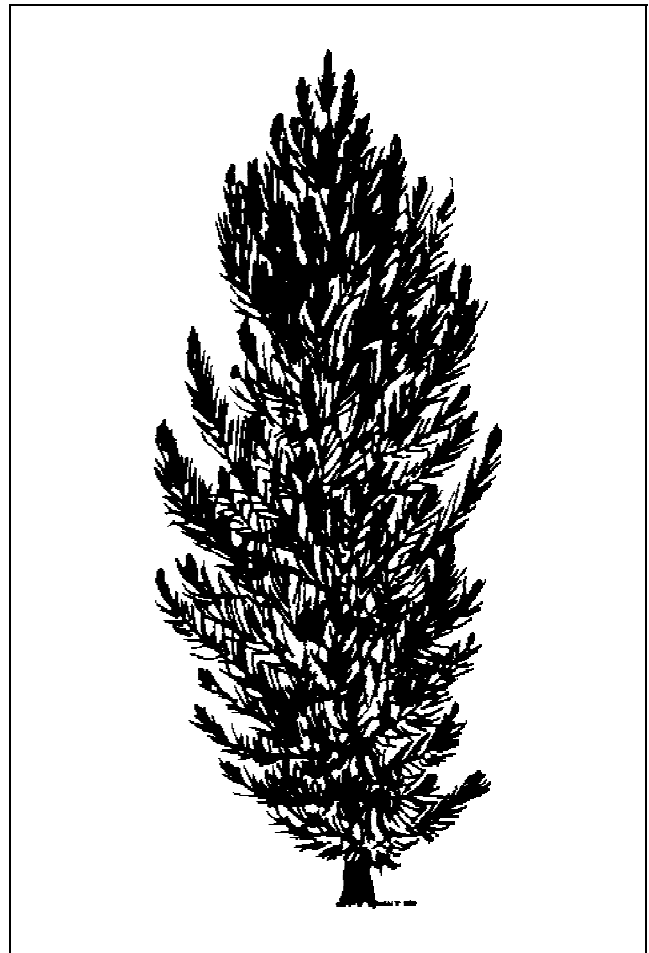


Figure 1. Young Mondell Pine.

Growth rate: medium

Texture: fine

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: alternate; spiral

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: entire

Leaf shape: needle-like (filiform)

Leaf venation: parallel

Leaf type and persistence: evergreen; fragrant;
needle leaf evergreen

Leaf color: green

Fall color: no fall color change

Fall characteristic: not showy

Flower

Flower color: yellow

Flower characteristics: inconspicuous and not
showy; spring flowering

Fruit

Fruit shape: oval

Fruit length: 1 to 3 inches

Fruit covering: dry or hard

Fruit color: brown

Fruit characteristics: attracts squirrels and other
mammals; inconspicuous and not showy; fruit, twigs,
or foliage cause significant litter; persistent on the tree

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: grow mostly upright and will
not droop; not particularly showy; should be grown
with a single leader; no thorns

Pruning requirement: needs little pruning to develop
a strong structure

Breakage: susceptible to breakage either at the crotch
due to poor collar formation, or the wood itself is
weak and tends to break

Current year twig color: brown

Current year twig thickness: medium

Culture

Light requirement: tree grows in full sun

Soil tolerances: clay; loam; sand; acidic; alkaline;
well-drained

Drought tolerance: high

Other

Roots: surface roots are usually not a problem

Winter interest: no special winter interest

Outstanding tree: not particularly outstanding

Invasive potential: little, if any, potential at this time

Verticillium wilt susceptibility: not known to be susceptible

Pest resistance: long-term health usually not affected by pests

USE AND MANAGEMENT

The dense habit would make it well suited as a fine-textured screen. It is often used as a specimen, planted in groups or by itself in an open lawn area.

Mondell Pine should be grown in full sun on any well-drained soil and thrives in desert-like conditions. It also grows well in alkaline or clay soil.

Propagation is by seed.

Pests and Diseases

Pine tip moth can cause some damage to twigs.