



Japanese Black Pine *Pinus thunbergii*

Synonym: *Pinus thunbergiana* Franco

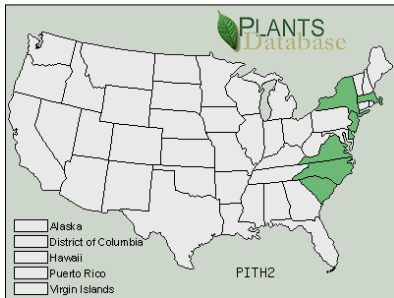
Common Names: black pine, Japanese black pine

Native Origin: northeastern China, Korea and Japan



Description: An open, irregularly-shaped conifer in the pine family (*Pinaceae*) reaching 25-30 feet in height and approximately 20-34 feet wide. The trunk is often divided into a wide, dense, dome-shaped or flattened crown. The bark is dark gray or purple-gray, scaly, longitudinally fissured. The branches are large and contorted, horizontally spreading and sometimes pendulous. The long evergreen needles are 3 - 7 inches long and are found in groups of two. Male flowers are reddish yellow and accumulate in clusters near branch tips in the spring. Female flowers are red ovules. Fruits develop as light brown woody cones with small prickles, 3 inches in length and 2 inches in width. Cones may be single or paired and open in late winter. Dark brown to black seeds are .2 inch long, with an articulate .5 inch long wing. When young, fast growing, upright shoots are covered with a dense whitish tomentum (growth of short, matted, wooly hairs) that is highly distinctive among pines. It reproduces by seeds.

Habitat: Japanese black pine prefers sunlight and fertile, moist, well-drained soil, but can grow on sandy soils. It is salt and drought tolerant.



Distribution: This species is reported from states shaded on Plants Database map. It is reported invasive in NY.

Ecological Impacts: This plant has the potential to become invasive in states shaded on the Plant Database Map. Often planted as ornamentals, Japanese black pines are able to spread to other areas under favorable conditions and become invasive. The fruit does not attract wildlife and fruit, twigs, or foliage can cause significant litter.

Control and Management:

- **Manual-** Hand-pull or dig up young plants with a shovel. Clip with pruning or lopping shears; cut with saw, ax, brush cutter, weed whip, or mower; or girdle the bark.
- **Chemical-** It can be effectively controlled using any of several readily available general use herbicides such as glyphosate or triclopyr. Follow label and state requirements.
- **Natural Enemy-** Pine wilt disease, caused by the nematode *Busaphelenchus xylophilus* affects this species.

References: <http://plants.usda.gov>, www.conifers.org/pi/pin/thunbergii.htm, www.cnr.vt.edu/DENDRO/dendrology/syllabus/factsheet.cfm?ID=142, oncampus.richmond.edu/.../Pinus%20thunbergii.htm, www.floridata.com/ref/p/pinu_thu.cfm, <http://images.google.com>, www.bbg.org/gar2/pestalerts/invasives/worst_nym.ht..., <http://hort.ufl.edu/trees/PINTHUA.pdf>, www.fs.fed.us/r9/hiawatha/NNIP/scoping_itr.pdf