

Longleaf Pine (*Pinus palustris*)

Longleaf pine is the legendary southern yellow pine of forest history. While the tall, stately longleaf pine once covered 30 to 60 million acres of the southeastern United States Coastal Plain, 200 years of logging and land clearing have greatly reduced its range. Longleaf pine takes 100 to 150 years to become full size and can live to 300 years old.

Longleaf pine stays in its tufted, grass-like stage (shown below) for five to seven years after germinating, growing very slowly while it develops a root system, then takes off at a moderate rate.

This beautiful pine tree is capable of reaching 80 to 125 feet in height with a 30 to 40-foot-spread. Longleaf Pine is not usually planted in landscapes, but could be used due to its beautiful bark and nice, open habit. Just give it room to grow, with plenty of overhead space.



A distinctive characteristic of Longleaf Pine is the new growth clusters, or buds, which are silvery white during the winter. The inconspicuous spring flowers are followed by a large, spiny cone, 6 to 10 inches long, which persist on the tree for a couple of years.

Longleaf Pine should be grown in full sun or partial shade on well-drained, acidic soil. Once established, trees are very drought-tolerant and require no irrigation for survival.



Information Source:

Gilman, E. F. and Watson, D.G. (1993). *Pinus palustris: Longleaf Pine*. University of Florida. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/st469>

Photos by: Alicia Lamborn