

# Mugo Pine



# Mugo Pine (*Pinus mugo*)

## General Description

A small to large sized shrubby evergreen which varies in form and size. Introduced from Europe in 1779. Needles persist for more than 5 years. Dark green color year-round and resists winterburn.

### Leaves and Buds

Bud Arrangement - In whorls, scales closely appressed.

Bud Color - Reddish-brown scales encrusted with resin.

Bud Size - 1/4 to 1/2 inch long, oblong-ovoid in shape.

Leaf Type and Shape - Needles in fascicles of two.

Leaf Margins - Margin is finely toothed, apex short, blunt point.

Leaf Surface - Nearly smooth.

Leaf Length - 1½ to 3 inches.

Leaf Width - Needles.

Leaf Color - Medium green to dark green.

### Flowers and Fruits

Flower Type - Monoecious.

Flower Color - Purplish to reddish-tan.

Fruit Type - Cone, 1 to 2 inches long.

Fruit Color - Dark brown, glossy cone.

### Form

Growth Habit - Usually low, broad-spreading and bushy.

Texture - Medium-coarse, summer and winter.

Crown Height - 3 to 20 feet.

Crown Width - 5 to 30 feet.

Bark Color - Brownish-gray, scaly.

Root System - Moderately deep, spread is more than height.

## Environmental Requirements

### Soils

Soil Texture - Adapted to a variety of soils.

Soil pH - 4.0 to 7.5, but performs well at 7.8.

Windbreak Suitability Group - 1, 3, 5.

### Cold Hardiness

USDA Zone 2.

### Water

Drought resistant, no watering necessary.

### Light

Full sun only.

## Uses

### Conservation/Windbreaks

Not commonly used in windbreaks since other, taller conifers are more readily available for conservation uses.

Swiss Mountain Pine (*P. uncinata*) is a taller choice for windbreaks.

### Wildlife

Cover for some birds and mammals.

### Agroforestry Products

Medicinal - A source of oil of turpentine.

### Urban/Recreational

Good for ornamental landscaping, foundation plantings and mass plantings on public grounds. May need pruning to control crown spread and height.

## Cultivated Varieties

Compact Mugo Pine (*Pinus mugo* 'Compacta') - Dwarf compact, 4 to 5 feet.

Dwarf Mugo Pine (*P. mugo* var. *mugo*) - 7 feet tall, 8 to 12 feet wide.

Gnom Mugo Pine (*P. mugo* 'Gnom') - Very dwarf, mounded.

Mops Mugo Pine (*P. mugo* 'Mops') Dwarf globe, 3 feet tall and wide.

Pumilio Mugo Pine (*P. mugo* var. *pumilio*) - Shrubby, mound-like, grows 8 to 10 feet wide.

## Related Species

Scotch Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*)

Swiss Mountain Pine (*P. uncinata*) - Tree-like, otherwise similar to Mugo Pine.

Swiss Stone Pine (*P. cembra*) - 5-needle species. Excellent landscape tree.

## Pests

Sawfly and pine needle scale are sometimes troublesome.