

Plant Profiles: HORT 2242 Landscape Plants II

Botanical Name: *Pinus bungeana*

Common Name: lacebark pine

Family Name: Pinaceae – pine family

General Description: *Pinus bungeana* is a slow growing pine known for its outstanding bark. The bark is a beautiful mixture of green, cream, and cinnamon colors reminiscent of sycamore (planetree) bark. Specimens can be found in arboreta and specialty gardens in the Chicago area but it is not commonly used as a landscape plant. Our heavy, wet soils limit broad use of this plant but should not deter one from planting it in their own garden as its beauty is beyond compare.

Zone: 4(5)-7

Resources Consulted:

Dirr, Michael A. *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants: Their Identification, Ornamental Characteristics, Culture, Propagation and Uses*. Champaign: Stipes, 2009. Print.

Creator: Julia Fitzpatrick-Cooper, Professor, College of DuPage

Creation Date: 2014

Keywords/Tags: Pinaceae, tree, conifer, cone, needle, evergreen, *Pinus bungeana*, lacebark pine



Whole plant/Habit:

- Description: *Pinus bungeana* is pyramidal when young often with multiple trunks or branching near the base of the trunk.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: April 21, 2007
- Image File Name: lacebark_pine_0991.png



Whole plant/Habit:

- Description: As lacebark pine matures it becomes more open and round in form. This photograph illustrates the start of that process.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: August 10, 2008
- Image File Name: lacebark_pine_2575.png



Bark:

- Description: The bark is a beautiful mosaic of green, silver, cream, cinnamon, and sometimes purple. The wider range of color becomes more pronounced as the tree becomes more open to the sun with age. This image shows the typical silver and green patches in its earlier stage.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: September 29, 2010
- Image File Name: lacebark_pine_1200642.png



Branch/Twig:

- Description: Stems of lacebark pine are grayish green, smooth and shiny.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: December 28, 2010
- Image File Name: lacebark_pine_1240360.png



Bud:

- Description: Buds have reddish brown scales and are not resinous.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: April 21, 2007
- Image File Name: lacebark_pine_0980.png



Flower:

- Description: Though not true flowers the reproductive structures on pines are often referred to as such. Pines are monoecious; producing male pollen cones (on left) and separate female seed cones (on right) all on the same plant. Male pollen cones are clustered at the base of new growth. Female cones form near the tip of new growth. The color phases can vary according to species. Note: This photo is meant to show general images for “flowers”. The images are not from the same pine species and may not be of the same species referenced in this Plant Profile.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: Early June
- Image File Name: pinus_flower-00.png



Cone:

- Description: The yellowish-brown cones are approximately 2 inches; egg-shaped.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: April 21, 2007
- Image File Name: lacebark_pine_0994.png



Leaf Number/Attachment:

- Description: *Pinus bungeana* is a 3-needle pine. This is the best identification feature since there are very few 3-needle pines (*P. ponderosa* has a mix of 2 and 3 needles per bundle).
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: August 10, 2008
- Image File Name: lacebark_pine_2573.png



Leaf Number/Attachment:

- Description: The needles are 2 to 4 inches, rigid and dark green in color. The foliage remains on the tree for 3 to 4 years.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: September 29, 2010
- Image File Name: lacebark_pine_1200641.png



Winter interest:

- Description: The bark is beautiful in any season but is especially attractive against a snowy background.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: January 3, 2014
- Image File Name: lacebark_pine_4191.png



Winter interest:

- Description: Heavy snow load or ice can cause the broad spreading branches of lacebark pine to break.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: January 3, 2014
- Image File Name: lacebark_pine_4192.png



Special ID feature(s):

- Description: If the tree has 3 needles per bundle and patchy silver/green bark it is *Pinus bungeana*.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: September 29, 2010
- Image File Name: lacebark_pine_1200643.png