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Botanical name:

*Pinus canariensis*

Common name:

Canary Island Pine

Origin:

In the western Canary Islands and Gomera (W of N Africa), an area of subhumid Mediterranean climate on volcanic substrate.

Typical height:

20-40 metres

Typical width:

10-20 metres

Growth rate:

Slow to moderate

Typical form:

Large tree with a straight stem and a usually open crown of regular, candelabra-like upswept branches. Broad conical form when mature.

Characteristics:

The bark is very thick, scaly, fissured, patterned red-brown and toned. Bright green, long leaves (needles) in fascicles of three. Cones are slightly curving downwards on short stout stalks, symmetrical, hard, heavy, ovoid-conical in shape.

Site requirements:

Suits most soils but prefers well-drained sites in open, full sun situation.

Tolerances:

High frost tolerance to minus 10°C and high drought tolerance, tolerating much lower levels of rainfall than other pine species. Medium to high flammability.

Notes:

Canary Island Pine is one of a few pines that sends out epicormic growth and is therefore

able to regenerate after fire and coppicing. The juvenile leaves are distinctly blue and can often be seen on the lower trunk.

