

Araucaria heterophylla

(Norfolk Island Pine)



Notes

A handsome, statuesque tree. Due to its size and form the Norfolk Island Pine can provide a good contrast to other landscape elements and is a feature of many Australian coastal towns.

Above: Foliage.

Above: Norfolk Island Pine showing tall, tiered effect.

Origin	Norfolk Island.
Habit	Large tree with a narrow pyramidal to conical form. Horizontally tiered branches on a single trunk. Trunk diameter can extend to 2m. Norfolk Island Pine has a formal architecture that makes them strong landscape trees. Estimated size in cultivation 25-30m height by 4-10m width. (Can become large in its natural habitat; 30m or more in height & 15m in width).
Description	Specific epithet refers to the distinction between the juvenile and adult leaves. Juvenile leaves narrow, incurved, generally softer; while adult leaves are rigid, overlapping and lanceolate. Grey-black bark, flaking, deep pink beneath. Branches are held in horizontal whorls of 4-7. Ovoid to globose female cones found in small numbers held upright in the uppermost branches. Growth rate is reported as being fast, however will be dependent on nursery production method, landscape site conditions and after-care maintenance.
Tolerances	A large tree that can adapt to a range of soil conditions (as long as well drained) and is drought tolerant once established. Moderate tolerance to waterlogged soils. High tolerance of winds also salt laden winds in coastal situations. Not seriously affected by pest or disease.
Root space	Based on mature size, tree would require approximately 176m ² area or 106m ³ root volume. (Crown projection method based on 15m diameter canopy due to narrow form of species).
Availability	Common.
Uses & management	The most widely cultivated of the araucarias. Norfolk Island Pine is well suited to coastal situations where, in Australia, it has become an iconic species. Possibly used in coastal towns as landmarks for shipping. Species is suited to urban landscapes, both coastal and inland. Also used as street tree where space allows (Zone of upheaval 4.0m to 5.0m diameter). Good tree for open space. Norfolk Island Pine can also be used as an indoor plant and is often seen as a Christmas tree. Prune to central trunk otherwise little pruning is required. Supplemental irrigation to establish trees is essential. Roots are surface orientated and can lift hard surfaces. Consideration will need to be given to allowing room for both upper crown development and root buttress expansion.



Above: Showing Avenue effect and trunk detail.

Reference

Rowell, R. J. (1996) *Ornamental conifers for Australian gardens*. UNSW Press.

Spencer, R. (1995) *Horticultural flora of South-Eastern Australia. Ferns, conifers & their allies*. UNSW Press.

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