

LONGLEAF PINE

Pinus palustris

The Longleaf Pine was once the dominant canopy tree species for the entire southeastern United States. Its only sin was the excellent lumber it provided when the rapidly growing country needed to build the nation's cities. Consequently there are few stands of virgin Longleaf Pine remaining in the country. Longleaf pine is an 80-100 ft. tree with short, stout, spare branches forming an open, irregular crown. A new level of branches is added each year. Long, bright green needles, the longest of any eastern North American pine, occur in dense bundles of three. The cones are also the largest of any pine in eastern North America. Mature specimens provide high, airy, fragrant canopies. Seedlings pass through a grass stage for a few years, in which the stem grows in thickness rather than height and the taproot develops rapidly.



