

Tree of the Month:

Pine tree



Fun facts:

Pine tree is a symbol of Christmas. Loblolly Pine is the official state tree of Arkansas. The mature pines in Maumelle are primarily Shortleaf Pine (*Pinus echinata*). There are four native species of pine in AR: Shortleaf Pine, Loblolly Pine, Longleaf Pine, and Slash Pine.

Attributes:

Pines are long-lived, typically reaching ages of 100–1,000 years, some even more. Many pine species make attractive ornamental plantings for parks and larger gardens, with a variety of dwarf cultivars being suitable for smaller spaces. Makes an excellent screen in many landscapes. A noise and wind barrier. A great shade tree. Provides cooling in the summer. Helps stabilize soil and reduce erosion.

Where to plant:

Planting a row of evergreen trees on the north and northwest sides of your property creates a wall against cold winter winds—saving your heating costs by up to 30%. The best protection from wind occurs when the windbreak is no more than the distance of one or two tree heights from the house. This distance is also good because down-wind side of the tree is where most snow accumulates.

Size:

Depending on the species, it can grow anywhere from 3ft (Dwarf Mugo Pine) to 200ft tall (Sugar Pine).

Soil and Moisture:

Grows in a wide variety of soils (grows very well in acidic clay soil, which is common throughout the South). Most species of pine require good soil drainage, preferring sandy soils, but a few will tolerate poorly drained wet soils.

Light:

Full sun.

Distinctive features:

Needles and cones of various sizes and shapes.

Wildlife Value:

Pine trees are very important for numerous wildlife species. The trees provide habitat for many animals and birds, including white-tailed deer, wild turkey, gray squirrels, rabbit, quail, and doves. Many songbirds also feed on the seeds.

More Info: <http://maumelle.org/boards-a-commissions/tree-board.html>