

Shortleaf Pine (*Pinus echinata*)

Plant Species of Concern

State Rank: S1S2 (critically imperiled/imperiled), Global Rank: G5 (secure)

Identification

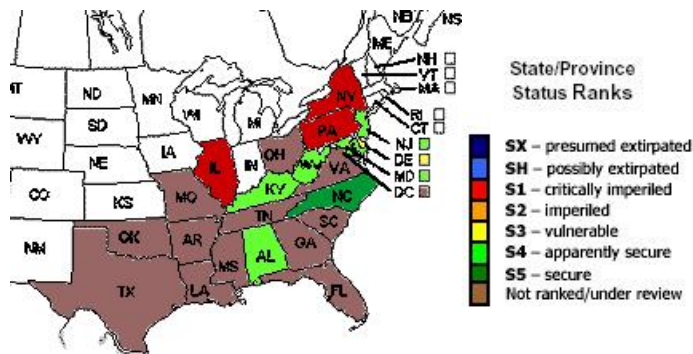
Shortleaf pine is an evergreen coniferous tree that may grow 80 to 100 feet (25-30 meters) tall, often with much of the trunk free of lateral dead branches. The bark is reddish-brown and forms scaly plates. The leaves are evergreen, needle-like, in bundles of 2 or occasionally 3, from 2 to 5 inches (5-12 cm) long, relatively slender, and tend to be straight or only slightly twisted. The cones are narrowly egg-shaped, 1½ to 2½ inches (4-6 cm) long, and made up of thin scales that are spirally arranged and have a thickened tip with a short, sharp spine. The cones may persist on the tree for several years.



photo source: John Kunsman (PNHP)

North American State/Province Conservation Status

Map by NatureServe (July, 2007)



Habitat

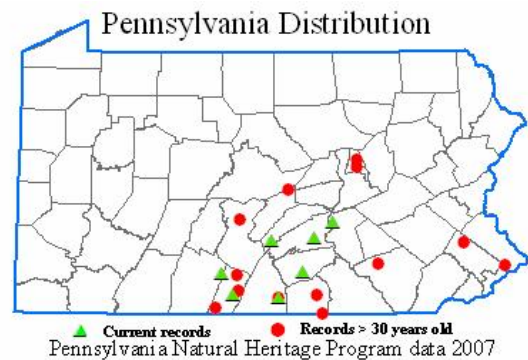
Shortleaf pine has a distribution from New York south and west into Florida and Texas. In Pennsylvania, where it reaches a northern border of its range, the occurrences are primarily in the south-central counties. It grows mainly in well-drained upland woods and slopes.

Status

The PA Biological Survey considers shortleaf pine to be a species of special concern, based on the relatively few occurrences that have been confirmed and the limited range in the state. It has been assigned a rarity status of Undetermined, meaning that more information is needed before a more definitive rarity status can be designated.

Conservation

More field surveys are needed to determine the range, abundance, and ecological requirements of shortleaf pine. Based on current data, the long-term viability of occurrences will probably require special management, such as prescribed fire, since the species is very intolerant of shade and early successional conditions are necessary for establishment of seedlings.



▲ Current records ● Records > 30 years old
Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program data 2007

References

- NatureServe. 2007. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 6.2. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>. (Accessed: September 4, 2007).
- Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program. 2007.
- Rhoads, A. F. and W. M. Klein, Jr. 1993. The Vascular Flora of Pennsylvania: Annotated Checklist and Atlas. American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia.
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