



Scots pine can grow up to 35m tall and live for up to 700 years. Younger trees have a conical top but this flattens out with age.

Sometimes it can be a bit tricky to identify, since mature trees can be tall and straight with a few branches at the side, or quite short and broad, spreading outwards, often with more than one trunk.

The bark is often orangey-pink on the upper parts of the trunk.



Bluey-green needles 4-7 cm long

Scots pine needles come in pairs. If you put the two needles together you will find that they fit together to make a circle along the whole of their length.



The yellow male flowers can be seen at the tip of a twig in May but drop off soon afterwards.



The female flower starts as a green cone but turns brown when mature after three years to become a small brownish cone up to 8 cm long



Scots pine and wildlife...

The Scots pine's link to wildlife is strong in its native Scotland, where the red squirrel, Scottish wildcat and pine martens enjoy the habitat of the Caledonian forest.



There too you will find the Scottish crossbill, capercaillie and crested tit amongst other birds.

In England the trees support a less rich habitat but they are still important for many birds, such as tits and goldcrests.

Did ye know there's Scots pine in England too? We could move south.

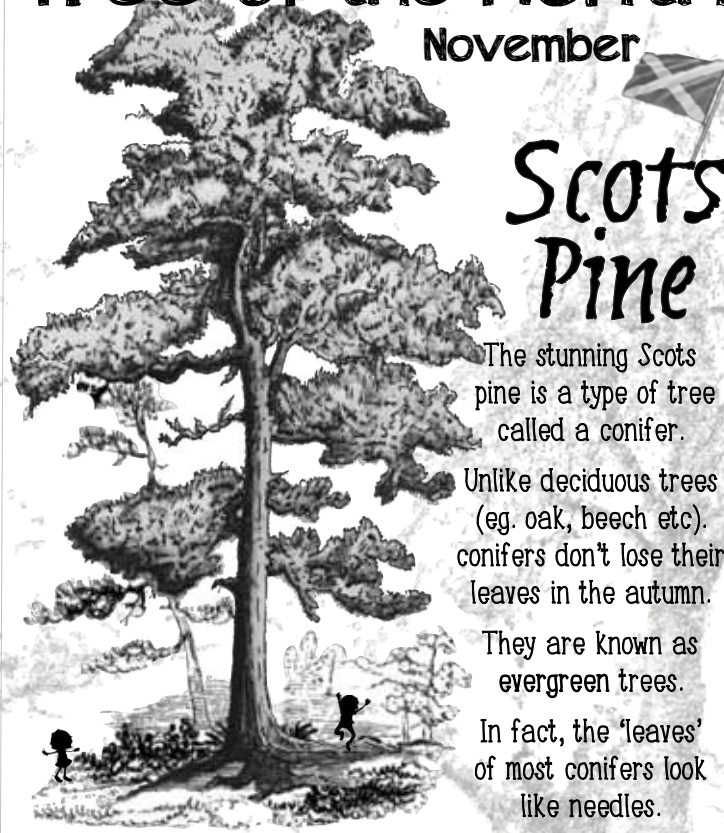
Aye. We could...

But who'd want to live doon there?



Tree of the Month

November



Scots Pine

The stunning Scots pine is a type of tree called a conifer.

Unlike deciduous trees (eg. oak, beech etc). conifers don't lose their leaves in the autumn.

They are known as evergreen trees.

In fact, the 'leaves' of most conifers look like needles.

They spread their seeds using cones (cone-conifer?)

There are over 100 species of pine in the world but only the Scots pine is native to Britain and even this tree is not native in England.

Scots pine has been planted not only to enhance the landscape but also for commercial purposes.

It is now common throughout Britain growing naturally on heathland.



FRIENDS of RICHMOND PARK

The Tree of the Month is produced by the Friends of Richmond Park
words: Christopher Hedley & Ken Edwards design: Ken Edwards

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How do we use Scots pine?

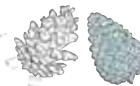
•Timber... a sturdy timber, known as 'deal', used to make telegraph poles, pit props and gate posts. Also used for fencing and Alpine style furniture.

•Resin ... Scots pines produce a sticky resin which can be used to make a fluid called turpentine or 'turps'. Turpentine oil has traditionally been used for a variety of purposes, including on the skin to relieve joint and muscle pains, and in soaps and cosmetics.

However, turpentine oil can cause skin and lung problems and is poisonous when swallowed. These effects are particularly strong in children... so don't use!!

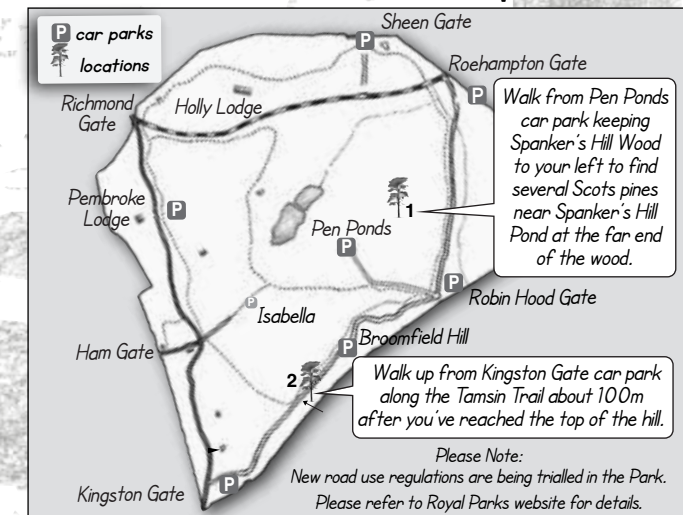
Artists use turps to clean their brushes and as a paint thinner, but because of its bad health effects, they often use a 'turps substitute'.

A pine cone can make a great weather station. In dry weather, it will open up so the tiny seeds inside can be blown away by gusts of wind, but if it's rainy or humid, it will close up to protect them.



Where to find Scots pine...

You can find individual Scots pine all over the Park
There are nice collections in two places...



Please Note:
New road use regulations are being trialled in the Park.
Please refer to Royal Parks website for details.