

***Pinus elliottii* Engelm.**

Common Name	Slash Pine
Botanical Name	<i>Pinus elliottii</i>
Family	Pinaceae
Form	Tree
Growth Habit	An evergreen tree that grows from 100'-120' tall with a trunk 2'-4' diameter. It has a single trunk and branching occurs only near the top of the tree.
Bark	A dark reddish-brown that is fissured into plates and may appear to be somewhat flaky.
Leaves	Deep green needles appear in clusters of 2-3 and are from 5"-12" long.
Cones	Ovulate cones are dark brown and glossy, from 3"-6" long. The scales of the cones are spiny and they have an egg shape when open. Tiny, brown pollen-bearing cones are insignificant at branch ends.
Fruit	Winged seeds are released from cones at maturity; the seed is about ¼" long while the wing is from ¾"-1" long.
Soil conditions	Found throughout the state in sandy, acidic, well-drained soils.
Water	This Pine species is drought tolerant, and may even be harmed by excessive irrigation.
Light Requirement	Full sun
Native Growth Zone	8-11
Propagation	Seed
Habitat	This is a dominant tree found in pine flatwoods.
Remarks	The Slash Pine is a fast growing tree and is an important tree commercially, being used for timber and paper making. Although the tree is strong and hardy, care must be taken not to damage or disturb the roots as this makes the tree more susceptible to pest attacks. There are two variants of the Slash Pine found in Florida: <i>P. elliottii</i> var. <i>elliottii</i> and <i>P. elliottii</i> var. <i>densa</i> . The latter is found in only in South Florida and is associated with dryer and rockier soils.

Works Consulted