Golden Scotch Pine

Pinus sylvestris 'Aurea'



Golden Scotch Pine foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 35 feet

Spread: 25 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 4

Other Names: Scots Pine

Description:

A relatively bold and unusual medium-sized tree with new needles emerging yellow and fading to lime green, then back to a gold in fall and winter, also features interesting reddish-orange bark; quite a standout, best used as a large accent on its own

Ornamental Features

Golden Scotch Pine is primarily valued in the landscape for its ornamental globe-shaped form. It has attractive chartreuse evergreen foliage which emerges yellow in spring. The needles are highly ornamental and turn an outstanding yellow in the fall, which persists throughout the winter. The shaggy orange bark is extremely showy and adds significant winter interest.



Golden Scotch Pine
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Golden Scotch Pine is an evergreen tree with a strong central leader and a more or less rounded form. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance tree. When pruning is necessary, it is recommended to only trim back the new growth of the current season, other than to remove any dieback. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Golden Scotch Pine is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Shade

Planting & Growing

Golden Scotch Pine will grow to be about 35 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 25 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 4 feet from the ground, and should not be planted underneath power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 60 years or more.

This tree should only be grown in full sunlight. It prefers dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil, and will often die in standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for xeriscaping or the moisture-conserving landscape. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.