**Pinus taeda ‘Nana’: ‘Nana’ Loblolly Pine**

Edward F. Gilman and Dennis G. Watson

**Introduction**

Loblolly Pine is a North American native which is usually seen from 50 to 80 feet tall with a 30-foot-spread though it is capable of reaching more than 150 feet in height. This cultivar probably grows to only 10 to 20 feet in height making it ideal for use as a specimen or screen. It has a dense, rounded silhouette and may become popular, especially for small-scale landscapes, once people discover it. The pyramidal, dense form stays with the tree throughout its life making it ideal for screening. It does not appear to lose its lower limbs as it grows older as does the species. The six to nine-inch-long evergreen needles turn light green during the winter. The often-paired cones are three to six inches long, red/brown, and have very sharp spines. They persist on the tree for several years and mature in the fall. The bark of Loblolly Pine is very thick which helps make this tree very resistant to fire in the wild.

**General Information**

- **Scientific name:** *Pinus taeda*
- **Pronunciation:** PIE-nus TEE-duh
- **Common name(s):** ‘Nana’ Loblolly Pine
- **Family:** Pinaceae
- **USDA hardiness zones:** 6B through 9B (Fig. 2)
- **Origin:** native to North America
- **Invasive potential:** little invasive potential
- **Uses:** container or planter; specimen; screen; highway median; Bonsai
- **Availability:** somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the tree

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**Description**

- **Height:** 15 to 20 feet
- **Spread:** 15 to 20 feet
- **Crown uniformity:** symmetrical
- **Crown shape:** round
- **Crown density:** dense
- **Growth rate:** slow
- **Texture:** fine

**Foliage**

- **Leaf arrangement:** alternate (Fig. 3)
- **Leaf type:** simple
- **Leaf margin:** entire
- **Leaf shape:** needle-like (filiform)
- **Leaf venation:** parallel
- **Leaf type and persistence:** fragrant, evergreen, needled evergreen
- **Leaf blade length:** 4 to 8 inches, 8 to 12 inches
- **Leaf color:** green
- **Fall color:** no color change
- **Fall characteristic:** not showy

**Flower**

- **Flower color:** yellow
- **Flower characteristics:** not showy

**Fruit**

- **Fruit shape:** oval, cone
- **Fruit length:** 3 to 6 inches
- **Fruit covering:** dry or hard
- **Fruit color:** brown
- **Fruit characteristics:** attracts squirrels/mammals; showy; fruit/leaves a litter problem

**Trunk and Branches**

- **Trunk/bark/branches:** branches don’t droop; not showy; typically one trunk; thorns
- **Pruning requirement:** little required
- **Breakage:** resistant
- **Current year twig color:** brown
- **Current year twig thickness:** thick, medium
- **Wood specific gravity:** 0.51

**Culture**

- **Light requirement:** full sun
- **Soil tolerances:** sand; loam; clay; acidic; well-drained; occasionally wet
- **Drought tolerance:** moderate
- **Aerosol salt tolerance:** moderate

**Other**

- **Roots:** not a problem
- **Winter interest:** no
- **Outstanding tree:** yes
- **Ozone sensitivity:** unknown
- **Verticillium wilt susceptibility:** resistant
- **Pest resistance:** resistant to pests/diseases

**Use and Management**

Pines are often grouped together in a landscape and they are becoming more popular for planting in parks and in commercial landscapes. They create a denser shade than the species which can shade out grass and other sun-loving plants beneath the canopy.

Loblolly Pine should be grown in full sun on well-drained, acid soil. It is highly drought-tolerant once established.

**Pests**

It may be infected by pine bark beetle, borers, pine tip moth, and sawflies.

**Diseases**

It is susceptible to fusiform rust and heart rot.