**Introduction**

Japanese red pine reaches a height and spread of 30 to 50 feet in the landscape, growing much taller in the woods. Needles are arranged in pairs and remain on the tree for about three years. A distinguishing feature of this tree is the often crooked or sweeping trunk that shows reddish-orange peeling bark. Because lower branches are held nearly horizontal on the trunk forming a picturesque silhouette in the landscape, it is used best as a specimen, not as a mass planting. Needles may turn yellowish during winter on some soils.

**General Information**

**Scientific name:** *Pinus densiflora* ‘Pendula’  
**Pronunciation:** PYE-nuss den-siff-FLOR-ruh  
**Common name(s):** weeping Japanese red pine  
**Family:** Pinaceae  
**Plant type:** tree  
**USDA hardiness zones:** 3B through 7A (Fig. 1)  
**Planting month for zone 7:** year round  
**Origin:** not native to North America  
**Uses:** bonsai  
**Availability:** grown in small quantities by a small number of nurseries

**Description**

**Height:** 6 to 10 feet  
**Spread:** 10 to 15 feet  
**Plant habit:** weeping; spreading  
**Plant density:** dense

**Growth rate:** slow  
**Texture:** fine

**Figure 1.** Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**Foliage**

**Leaf arrangement:** spiral  
**Leaf type:** simple  
**Leaf margin:** entire  
**Leaf shape:** needle-like (filiform)  
**Leaf venation:** parallel  
**Leaf type and persistence:** evergreen  
**Leaf blade length:** 4 to 8 inches  
**Leaf color:** green  
**Fall color:** no fall color change  
**Fall characteristic:** not showy

**Flower**

**Flower color:** yellow
**Pinus densiflora ‘Pendula’ Weeping Japanese Red Pine**

**Flower characteristic:** inconspicuous and not showy

**Fruit**
- **Fruit shape:** oval
- **Fruit length:** 1 to 3 inches
- **Fruit cover:** dry or hard
- **Fruit color:** tan
- **Fruit characteristic:** persists on the plant

**Trunk and Branches**
- **Trunk/bark/branches:** typically multi-trunked or clumping stems; no thorns
- **Current year stem/twig color:** green
- **Current year stem/twig thickness:** medium

**Culture**
- **Light requirement:** plant grows in full sun
- **Soil tolerances:** acidic; well-drained; sand; loam
- **Drought tolerance:** moderate
- **Soil salt tolerances:** poor
- **Plant spacing:** not applicable

**Other**
- **Roots:** usually not a problem
- **Winter interest:** plant has winter interest due to unusual form, nice persistent fruits, showy winter trunk, or winter flowers
- **Outstanding plant:** plant has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more
- **Invasive potential:** not known to be invasive
- **Pest resistance:** long-term health usually not affected by pests

**Use and Management**
The tree prefers a site with full sun and a well-drained, slightly acid soil. Clay soil is usually not suitable unless it is very well drained.

There a few cultivars: ‘Alboterminata’—yellowish needle tips; ‘Aurea’—yellow needles; ‘Oculus-draconis’—dragon’s eye pine—two yellow lines on needles; ‘Umbraculifera’—Tanyosho pine—20 feet tall, multi-trunked.

Propagation is by seed.

**Pests and Diseases**
This tree is usually pest-free, with occasional scale, but the list of potential problems is long.

Some of its diseases are needle blight and rusts. Canker diseases may cause dieback of landscape pines. Keep trees healthy and prune out the infected branches.

Needle cast is common on small trees and plantation or forest trees. Infected needles yellow and fall off.