

# *Pinus brutia* var. *eldarica*: Mondell Pine<sup>1</sup>

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## Introduction

Growing rapidly when young, Mondell pine reaches heights of 30 to 40 feet and is quite dense. This tree stands out among the pines due to the upright growth habit that stays with the tree throughout its life. The paired, medium green needles are five- to 6.5-inches long and joined by three-inch-long cones. The tree is most often grown in parts of Texas.



Figure 1. Young *Pinus brutia* var. *eldarica*: Mondell pine.  
Credits: Ed Gilman, UF/IFAS

## General Information

**Scientific name:** *Pinus brutia* var. *eldarica*

**Pronunciation:** PIE-nus broo-tee-uh variety ell-DAR-ick-uh

**Common name(s):** Mondell pine

**Family:** *Pinaceae*

**USDA hardiness zones:** 6A through 10B (Figure 2)

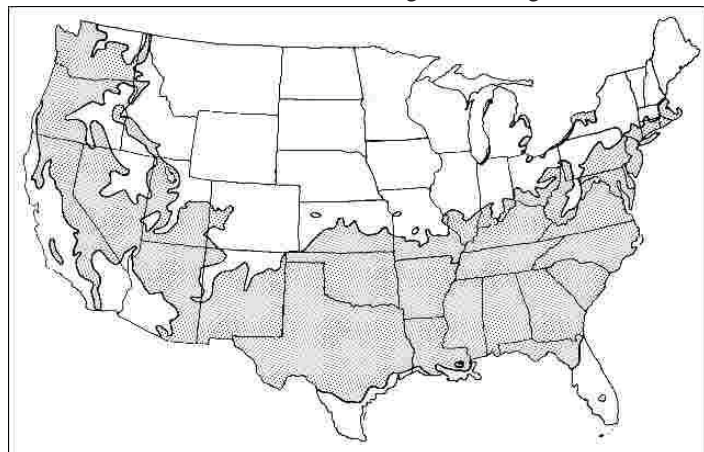


Figure 2. Range.  
Credits: UF/IFAS

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Invasive potential:** not assessed/incomplete assessment

**Uses:** reclamation; specimen; highway median; bonsai

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## Description

**Height:** 30 to 40 feet

**Spread:** 25 to 30 feet

**Crown uniformity:** symmetrical

**Crown shape:** upright/erect, pyramidal

**Crown density:** moderate

**Growth rate:** moderate

**Texture:** fine

## Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** alternate

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** entire

**Leaf shape:** needle-like (filiform)

**Leaf venation:** parallel

**Leaf type and persistence:** fragrant, needled evergreen, evergreen

**Leaf blade length:** unknown

**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:** 1 to 3 inches

**Fruit covering:** dry or hard

**Fruit color:** brown

**Fruit characteristics:** attracts squirrels/mammals; not 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:** susceptible to breakage

**Current year twig color:** brown

**Current year twig thickness:** medium

**Wood specific gravity:** unknown

## Culture

**Light requirement:** full sun

**Soil tolerances:** clay; sand; loam; alkaline; acidic; well-drained

**Drought tolerance:** high

**Aerosol salt tolerance:** unknown

## Other

**Roots:** not a problem

**Winter interest:** no

**Outstanding tree:** no

**Ozone sensitivity:** unknown

**Verticillium wilt susceptibility:** resistant

**Pest resistance:** resistant to pests/diseases

## Use and Management

The dense habit would make it well suited as a fine-textured screen. It is often used as a specimen, planted in groups or by itself in an open lawn area.

Mondell Pine should be grown in full sun on any well-drained soil and thrives in desert-like conditions. It also grows well in alkaline or clay soil.

Propagation is by seed.

## Pests and Diseases

Pine tip moth can cause some damage to twigs.