

Sciadopitys verticillata

U m b r e l l a P i n e

Although commonly called a pine, *Sciadopitys verticillata* is a conifer classified in its own unique family, Sciadopitaceae. Fossil evidence of the Umbrella Pine dates back 230 million years. At one time the Umbrella Pine (and its then numerous relatives) covered what is now Asia, Europe, and North America.

Today, the Umbrella Pine only grows wild in the cool cloud forests of central Japan where there is high rainfall and humidity at elevations between 1,500 and 3,200 feet. It is one of the “Five Trees of Kiso” and considered sacred in Japan.

The Umbrella Pine got its common name from the resemblance of its whorled leaves to the whorls of an umbrella.



Whorled Needles

Sciadopitys verticillata is an evergreen conifer, but its luxuriant dark green needles are unlike any other conifer. The long, flat, rubbery needles radiate out in showy whorls at the end of its branches and look like the spokes of an open umbrella or parasol. Verticillata refers to the unique shape being arranged in whorls. Each whorl contains 20-30 soft needles up to 5" long.



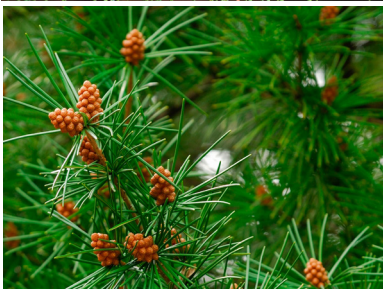
Bark

Hidden by evergreen foliage, the beautiful bark often goes unnoticed. It is a rich orange-brown that peels in long strips. The wood has a distinct spicy smell.



Cones

The female (seed bearing) cones are usually found high up in the tree. These cones are 2-4 inches long with chunky scales, and change from green to brown as they ripen in their second year. The male (pollen bearing) cones are only about an inch long, and are found at the ends of lower branches.



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There are six Umbrella Pines at the Arnold Arboretum. One is located at the southeast corner of the Hunnewell Building and was accessioned on April 23, 1970. Some of the oldest specimens, accessioned in 1898, are located near the Conifer Path.

