

Aleppo Pine

The Aleppo Pine is native to the Mediterranean region; its range extends into the Middle East. Pine trees are not generally seen in Arriyadh, because of the high temperatures and alkaline soils; however, *P. halepensis* is tolerant of such conditions and is occasionally seen in protected locations. *P. eldarica* is another pine which would grow in Arriyadh. An evergreen, moderate- to fast-growing tree, up to 20 metres high and 6 metres wide and a large trunk of up to 1 metre diameter, its bark is thick, fissured and reddish in colour. When young, its growth is pyramidal; at maturity, it has an open, irregular, rounded crown with huge lateral branches. The characteristic, yellowish-green, needle-like leaves are very slender, 10 cm long and produced in pairs. The flowers are inconspicuous in brown bundles at the end of the branches. The green cones are narrow, oval, up to 12 cm long and open slowly, ripening to glossy red-brown. *P. halepensis* is frost-tender when young, but mature trees withstand severe frosts. It prefers full sun and reflected heat; tolerating partial shade, when young, it will grow in poor soils, except wet types. Most drought-tolerant in good soil, it does best with irrigation, 2–3 times per month. Propagation is by seed, and plants require little feeding. Prone to mites and aphids, maintenance is low; pruning is seldom required after establishment. Aleppo Pine is used in afforestation in the Middle East. It is a popular ornamental tree for planting in large private gardens, and in parks in hot dry areas.



GENERAL

Origin	: sub-Mediterranean, Mediterranean, sub-tropical
Vigour	: fast growing
Humidity	: semi-arid, semi-humid
Propagation	: sowing and pricking out
Maintenance	: low

CONDITIONS

Urban climate	: vulnerable
Dessication	: vulnerable
Stagnant water	: vulnerable
Irrigation	: low
Salinity/ppm	: moderate (3000 ppm)
Hardiness	: -12°C

SHAPE

Type	: tree
Height	: 10 m-20 m
Spread	: 7 m-15 m
Foliage	: evergreen

FLOWER

Colour	: pastel yellow
Size	: 1 cm
Period	: March - April
Smell	: scented, aroma, gives freely of its scent, leaf, spicy

FRUIT

Type of fruit	: cones
Fruit size	: 10 cm - 15 cm