

“Leaves, Limbs, Needles and Boughs”

by Fred D. Opperman

In looking back over my past articles, it seems I have written mostly of “Leaves & Limbs” and little on “Needles and Boughs”. This month I’ve picked a pine that isn’t used much in our area. One would have to look far and wide to find one on a golf course. The reason being is that it is not being grown very widely or at all in our local nurseries. But it is a plant that can be purchased and will grow very well in our area.

Pinus ponderosa — (pi-nus pon-der-o’ sa) Ponderosa Pine or Western Yellow Pine.

Needles: in three’s, sometimes two’s, remaining 3 years, densely crowded on the branchlets, rigid, curved, 5 to 10” long, 1/20 to 1/12” wide, apex a sharp horny point, stomatic lines on each surface, dark or yellowish green.

Buds: Oblong, cylindrical 4/5” long acuter, resinous scales closely appressed, reddish brown.

Stem: Young stems stout, glabrous, orange-brown or greenish at first, eventually becoming nearly black; with the odor of vanilla when bruised.

Size: In the wild will reach 150 to 230’, averages 60 to 100’ and a spread of 25 to 30’ under cultivation.

Bark: Brown-black and furrowed on vigorous or young trees, yellowish brown to cinnamon-red and broken up into large flat, superficially scaly plates separated by deep irregular fissures on slow growing and old trunks.

Fruit: Cones, terminal, solitary or 3 to 5 together, nearly sessile (which means it is attached directly to the main stem), slightly recurved, symmetrical, ovoid or oblong-ovoid, 3 to 6” long, 1 to 2” broad.

Culture: Transplant balled and burlapped, prefers a deep, moist, well drained loam; sunny, open exposure; intolerant of shade, resistant to drought; tolerates alkaline soils.

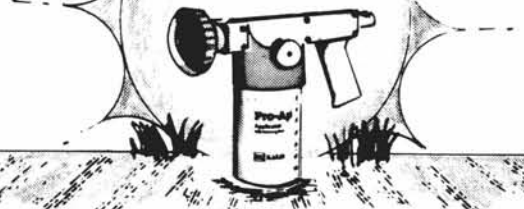
Credit: “Manual of Woody Landscape Plants” by Michael Dirr

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by Ken Zanzig

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