

Leaves, Limbs, Needles & Boughs



by Fred D. Opperman

I didn't mean to leave everyone hanging on my tree trivia question from October, it was an oversight on my part not to include it. The question was, "What is the most common wood used for the manufacture of quality heads for golf clubs? The correct answer is Persimmon. This month's question: What wood is used in the manufacture of nearly 80% of wooden tool handles?

I've chosen a pine for this month's topic. My favorite pine is the White Pine and my second favorite is Pinus nigra — Austrian Pine. In the Chicagoland area one can see many beautiful Austrian pines. Some of my favorite Austrians have multiple trunks that are very attractive. I think the nurseries should cut off the leaders of some of their trees when young and let the tree produce multiple leaders for that character tree of the future.

Leaves: In pairs persisting about 4 years, very dense on the branchlets, stiff, straight or curved, 4 to 6" long, 1/16" to 1/12" wide. Sharp to the touch. My touch test to determine if it is a Red or Austrian pine is to hold a clump of needles in one hand and use the palm of the other hand to see how sharp they are. Austrian pines will hurt the palm of the hand, where Red pines do not.

Buds: Ovoid to oblong or cylindrical, 1/2 to 1" long.

Bark: Dark brown furrows, usually with gray or gray-brown mottled ridges. Quite attractive.

Size: 50 to 60' in height and 20 to 40' in width. Some have been known to grow to 100' or more.

Rate: Medium, 35 to 50' after 20 years.

Culture: Hardy tree that withstands city conditions very well, very tolerant of soils, resists heat and drought, tolerates fairly heavy clay and alkaline soils, tolerates salt to some degree.

Tree Trivia answer: Hickory.

New Listing for TGIF

TGIF (**Turfgrass Information File**), the industry's largest single source of turfgrass information, announces the creation of a new listing containing members of the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA).

In the future, anyone who accesses TGIF will see the architect's directory as an option on the main screen, and will be able to obtain information about individual participating members. In addition to their names and addresses, TGIF will contain a listing of the courses that they have worked on.

Information from TGIF is available in hard copy, or via a modem, and can be searched by author name, subject, etc. The architects' directory may be searched by name or address. For additional information about TGIF, or the architects' directory, please contact Nancy Donati, Medinah Country Club, Medinah Road, Medinah, IL 60157-9653, 708/773-1700, ext. 254, or Peter Cookingham.

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