

# Longleaf Pine



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GARDEN EARTH  
NATURALIST  
ECO-SERVICE CARDS

# LONGLEAF PINE

*Pinus palustris*

FAMILY: Pinaceae

## IDENTIFICATION CLUES



**SIZE:** long, straight trunk up to 100 feet tall



**LEAF:** dark green needles in 3's and up to 18 inches long



**FEMALE CONE (covers seeds):** very large oval cone, 6 - 12 " long

**MALE CONE (produces pollen):** male cones 1-1 1/2 " long, in clusters



**BARK:** reddish to gray, flat scaly plates



## Where to Look

In Georgia, longleaf pine is found primarily in the coastal plains of southern and eastern Georgia in sandy, well-drained soils. Longleaf pine once covered over 90 million acres in the southeast from the Carolinas to Texas. Today fewer than two million acres remain. Botanically, longleaf pine forests are one of the most diverse on earth.

### Importance to Humans

The wood of longleaf pine is strong, dense and straight and in the past was used for construction, railroad ties and naval stores (tar, pitch and turpentine). Today, few longleaf pine forests remain and many have been replaced by slash and loblolly pine.

### Importance to Wildlife

Many species of plants and animals depend on the longleaf pine ecosystem. Due to loss of habitat, over 30 are threatened or endangered including the Red-cockaded Woodpecker and indigo snake.