

# Slash Pine



GARDEN EARTH  
NATURALIST  
ECO-SERVICE CARDS

# SLASH PINE

*Pinus elliottii* Engelm.

FAMILY: Pinaceae

## IDENTIFICATION CLUES



**SIZE:** medium to large, 60 - 100 feet tall



**LEAF:** evergreen needles, 7 - 12 inches long occurring in groups of two or three



**FEMALE CONE (covers seeds):** elongated oval, 3 - 7 " long; scales are tan and glossy with a small spine



**MALE CONE (produces pollen):** purplish-brown, 1/2 - 2 inches long and in tight clusters at branch tips

**BARK:** dark reddish brown, rough or broken into flat plate-like scales



## Where to Look

Slash pine is most often found in wet sandy soils surrounding swamps and ponds in the coastal plains of Georgia.

## Importance to Humans

Slash pine is grown in plantations as an important, fast-growing tree used for lumber, plywood, and pulpwood. It was once grown to produce tar and rosin which were used to treat the decks and keels of wooden ships.

## Importance to Wildlife

The seeds are an important food source for birds like grosbeaks and finches. Birds also use the needles for building nests. Being evergreen, pines also provide cover for birds and other animals.