

Pinus sylvestris

COMMON NAMES

Scots pine

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Gymnosperms

FLOWER COLOURS

No flowers

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Medium sized tree reaching about 35 m. **Needles** are stout 2.5–7 cm × 1–1.5 mm, in bunches of 2, grey-green to blue-green in colour, and twisted. **New shoots** are light yellow to light brown. **Mature female cones** are pendent 3–6 × 1.5–3 cm, light brownish grey.

SIMILAR TAXA

Short needles held in pairs, foliage has silvery appearance. Small cones without spikes, shed annually. Similar to *P. mugo* and *P. uncinata* but in *P. sylvestris* the cones are held on short stalks.

HABITAT

Terrestrial.

GENUS

Pinus

FAMILY

Pinaceae

AUTHORITY

Pinus sylvestris L.

YEAR NATURALISED

1919

ORIGIN

Europe, W. and N. Asia

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Forestry

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Perennial; seed is wind dispersed.

EXTRA INFORMATION

The National Wilding Conifer Control Programme team at Biosecurity New Zealand, a branch of Ministry for Primary Industries, has produced this wilding conifer [quick ID guide](#).



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ENVIRONMENTAL WEED (2024)

This plant is named in a list of 386 environmental weeds in New Zealand 2024 prepared by DOC. 759 candidate species were considered for inclusion on this new comprehensive list of environmental weeds in New Zealand. The species considered were drawn from published lists of weed species, lists of plants that must be reported or managed by law if observed, existing national and regional programmes and agreements for pest management, and species already managed by the Department of Conservation (DOC). Candidate species were then assessed to see if they were fully naturalised and whether they have more than minor impacts in natural ecosystems. Read the full report [here](#).

NVS CODE

PINSYL

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pinus-sylvestris/>

PDF DATE

25 May 2026