

# Jack Pine

*Pinus banksiana*

Jack pine is one of the hardiest pines native to Aitkin County. Its needles are shorter than other pines',  $\frac{3}{4}$ "-1½" long. Their short, curved cones only open when they're exposed to hot weather or wildfires.

Shorter-lived than other pines, jack pines tend to live for 70-90 years, but exceptional trees might live for 150 years. Jack pine stands provide moderate support and cover for wildlife. Older jack pine stands tend to have a lot of brush growing between trees, which makes for great wildlife habitat. Jack pine wood is soft and best suited to pulpwood production.

**Height:** 25' to 60' depending on site suitability

Jack pines can grow up to one foot per year in favorable conditions. They tend to grow more slowly as they reach maturity at 40 to 50 years old.

## **Planting environment:**

*Soil composition:* Grows well in poor, sandy soils. Doesn't tolerate clayey soils.

*Soil moisture:* Dry, well-drained

*Sunlight:* Full sun (needs >8 hours a day)

Clearing vegetation and tilling soil before planting will help seedlings grow. Jack pines are a pioneer tree species that naturally colonize burned lands.

Jack pine seedlings require 6' to 8' spacing between plants.

## **Maintenance:**

Branch pruning is not recommended for jack pines. To ensure ideal growth, clear brush or other tree species that shade seedlings and young trees.

## **Top diseases/pests:**

1. Bark beetles
2. Deer/hare (seedlings)

