

# White Pine

*Pinus strobus*

Stately white pine is the tallest native tree in Aitkin County. They're easily recognizable for their sweeping branches and needles in bunches of 5. Historically important on the landscape, they're now a great wildlife tree. They're good winter cover, and beaver, hare, porcupine, and deer eat seeds, needles, and bark from these trees. White pines are also prized for lumber.

**Height:** 70' to 85', may grow taller than 100'

White pines grow slowly at first, but can grow 16 inches/year between 10- 20 years of age. They usually reach their maximum height at 80 to 120 years old.

## **Planting environment:**

*Soil:* Sandy soil, sandy loam, silt loam

*Soil moisture:* Well-drained, moist but not wet

*Sunlight:* Intermediate (will grow in mixed sun and shade)

White pine does best when lightly shaded by other vegetation. You can plant seedlings where the existing brush blocks some (but not all) sunlight.

Plant white pine seedlings no closer than 8' apart (800 seedlings/acre)

## **Maintenance:**

Make sure to cap the top bud to protect it from deer browse. Older trees prefer about 100 ft<sup>2</sup> of space, so thinning is recommended if they are too close together. Clear brush for the first few years.

**Lifespan:** Commonly 200 years, but up to 450 years

## **Top diseases/pests:**

1. White pine blister rust
2. Deer—make sure to cap the top bud before winter

