

Red Pine (Norway Pine)

Pinus resinosa

Popularly planted, red pine is native to Aitkin County. Thin needles, 5"-7" long, do not fall in the winter, but stay on the tree for multiple years. Cones are approximately 2" long. Trees self-prune, losing their lower branches as the tree grows. Pure stands of red pine provide minimal habitat for most wild game, as few shrubs and undergrowth thrive beneath these trees. Red pines are excellent for producing lumber and pulpwood products.

Height: 60' to 80', may grow up to 100'

Under favorable conditions, red pines increase in height approximately 10 inches/year for the first 60 years. Maximum height is usually attained between 60 to 120 years of age.

Planting environment:

Soil composition: Sandy to sand-loam

Soil moisture: Well-drained, but not dry soil

Sunlight: Shade intolerant (needs >6 hours sun/day)

Clearing the area before planting is beneficial for seedlings. Red pines are pioneer trees species that naturally colonize burned lands. A controlled burn of land before planting clears existing vegetation and exposes bare soil.

Red pine requires 8' to 10' spacing between seedlings.

Maintenance:

If planted less than 10' apart, thinning of trees may be helpful for best tree growth. Clearing brush from seedlings for the first few years prevents competition from other species.

Top diseases/pests:

1. Bark beetles
2. Diplodia shoot blight, when planted under mature trees

