

TREETISE

SPRING 2011

Opine A Pine

R O O T E D I N K N O W L E D G E

VOLUME 3 | ISSUE 1

In our first two TREETISES of 2011, we'll be taking a close look at one of the longest living organisms on earth: the Pine tree. The genus *Pinus* is comprised of approximately 120 different species of Pine that run the gamut in size from extremely large to small and shrub-like.

In San Diego County we work with several Pine species. The most popular are the *Pinus halepensis* (Aleppo Pine) seen here, *Pinus canariensis* (Canary Island Pine), *Pinus pinea* (Italian Stone Pine), *Pinus brutia* 'eldarica' (Eldarica or Mondale Pine), *Pinus torreyana* (Torrey Pine) and *Pinus radiata* (Monterey Pine).

In a mature landscape, each of these Pine species can be a dominant part of the overall design and can represent a certain degree of risk if improperly maintained. In this and the next edition of the TREETISE, we'll address each species individually and give a brief description of the canopy structure, pruning requirements, pest and disease problems and what our experience with these trees has been like in regards to risk.

Pinus halepensis (Aleppo Pine)

The Aleppo Pine can be identified easily by the structure of the canopy, which appears gangly and twisted. Juvenile cones often point inward toward the trunk, making this tree difficult to prune quickly because branches often get caught up in the canopy as they fall. It is important to prune this Pine every two to three years because excessive canopy density can result in large volumes of leaf litter weighing down lateral branches, which in turn leads to breakage of large limbs or trunk sections.

Whole tree failures can also occur in areas where there's inadequate space for root growth. As far as disease and pests go, Aleppo Pines are susceptible to Pine Pitch Canker (*Fusarium circinatum*), the Red-haired Pine Bark Beetle and the Mediterranean Pine Engraver Beetle (also known as the Ips Beetle). We consider the Aleppo Pine to be one of the "riskier" Pines we work with; our experience has led us to associate this tree with large limb failures and property damage.



Message from the President

We are pleased to announce that as of February 23rd, Bryan and Adam officially obtained their PNW-ISA Certified Tree Risk Assessor (CTRA) credential. The CTRA allows us to provide our customers with an increased confidence in our evaluation of their landscape and any hazards we may identify in our surveys. Living with trees is living with a certain degree of risk, but that doesn't mean all trees are "high" risk. We hope to use this credential as a tool to ease our customers concerns about the safety of their trees. And when it comes time to remove trees, we hope our certification will help our customers to trust our judgment and be able to confidently remove unsafe trees knowing that their decision was wisely and carefully made.



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Pinus canariensis (Canary Island Pine)



The Canary Island Pine is very common to the San Diego landscape and requires pruning roughly every two to three years, although biannual pruning is commonly recommended. Known for its extremely straight trunk with defined lateral limbs, the Canary Island Pine has deep green foliage and a reddish-brown bark. Its needles are very long and are produced in “bushy” clusters.

Although regarded as a fairly disease-resistant tree, the Canary Island Pine is host to a variety of pests. One of the most common pests we observe in this tree is the Spider Mite. These trees are also attacked by the Redhaired Pine Bark Beetle and the Ips Beetle. We rarely see whole tree failures in this species, but limb failures do frequently occur. However, limb failures in these trees are considered lower risk, as limbs typically do not break and fall to the ground but rather end up hanging in the tree until removed.

Pinus pinea (Italian Stone Pine)

One of the more majestic Pine species, the Italian Stone Pine can develop a wide-spreading canopy with long lateral branches and trunk diameters greater than 3 feet across. Biannual pruning is commonly recommended for this tree, although certain landscape designs require annual maintenance of the canopy to preserve its uniquely round characteristic.

The Italian Stone Pine is not known for its susceptibility to many pathogens, but it is a common host to Spider Mites and the Ips beetle. Other pests that attack this tree are Adelgids (small, aphid-like insects), which can produce needle castings.

Lately, we’ve encountered several whole tree failures of this species and are unable to attribute it to a species-specific problem or to the original planting stock from which these trees were developed. As a result, we recommend semi-annual monitoring of this tree in areas where whole tree failures occur. It’s important to observe any change of angulations, root elevation or branch deficiencies that may indicate potential tree failure.



We are excited to announce our newest Sales Manager, Peter Green! Peter joins our team with an extensive background in arboriculture. Peter has his BA in Botany with a minor in Chemistry from the University of Witwatersrand, South Africa. Peter has also attended Cal State Long Beach where he studied Ecology and Entomology. Peter is an ISA Certified Arborist #WE-5922A and has been for nine years. Peter’s experience will allow us to provide new services to our customers, such as crane removal, tree planting, and cable and brace installation just to name a few.

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ROOTED IN KNOWLEDGE

VOLUME 3 | ISSUE 1

These trees are very drought tolerant once established and do not have high irrigation requirements. This tree is not a great suggestion for areas surrounded by large sections of turf-grass but is rather more appropriate for sustainable landscape designs..

We will explore other Pine species in the next TREETise as we continue "Opine A Pine". In the meantime, we are available for any questions you might have about your existing Pines. If there are other Pine trees that we do not cover in this two-part series that you are interested in, please email me directly at Adam@FourSeasonsTC.com and I will do my best to get you the information you are looking for. Myself Adam Heard, and the team here at Four Seasons Tree Care, hope your 2011 has gotten off to a fantastic start and we look forward to another great year of helping you create a healthy, verdant landscape that works for, not against you!



DID YOU KNOW?

There are more than 100 different types of Pine trees known to the world. 35 of those different types grow in the United States.

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 2 OF TREETISE

Opine A Pine Part 2

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