

TREETISE

SUMMER 2011

Opine A Pine, Part 2

ROOTED IN KNOWLEDGE

VOLUME 3 | ISSUE 2

As we wrap up our discussion on pine trees in this latest version of TREETISE, we'd like to remind all our readers about the importance of selecting the proper trees for your landscape. Pine trees, as a general rule, are very large trees that require sufficient space for healthy growth. They are not the best choice for use as a privacy screen, flowerbed ornament, or hedge.

Recently, we've seen several cases where pine trees are heavily planted in either tightly landscaped planters or in large clusters on slopes. In both cases, the structures of the trees and the properties nearby are compromised. The trees are compromised because they develop poor root structure when contained in small planting sites or take on undesirable canopy forms due to overcrowding. The properties are compromised because trees will grow into their roofs or damage hardscape.

Remember, not every tree is an appropriate tree for any given location. With that said, we hope the remaining information about three more common pines in San Diego will help you determine what species of pine might be best for you.

Pinus brutia 'eldarica' (Eldarica Pine)

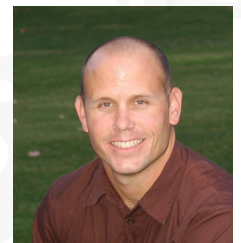
The Eldarica Pine is slowly becoming one of our favorite pine trees. The Eldarica Pine has similar characteristics to the Aleppo Pine, but has a much more neatly structured canopy and is not so greatly associated with high risk. The Eldarica Pine has very similar bark color, needle clusters, needle color and juvenile cone shape as the Aleppo Pine, which can make it difficult to identify by the less-experienced arborist or tree enthusiast.

Known to be a drought tolerant tree, the Eldarica Pine is also very tolerant of heat and high winds. As regards pests and disease, it is a host to Spider Mites and Aphids, as well as the Ips Beetle, and is susceptible to Pine Pitch Canker. Eldarica Pines are very low maintenance pines and can go three to four years between pruning cycles in the commercial landscape, though it largely depends on the site conditions and target zones.



Message from the President

Four Seasons Tree Care is excited to announce the launch of our long-awaited Tree Health Care Division. We can now offer a full spectrum of tree care services. Those of you who are used to our high standards of tree trimming can now benefit from those same high standards in fertilizing, insect and disease treatment, and consulting on everyday tree ownership. Trees need a lot more than an occasional hair cut. The urban landscape is less than ideal for most trees. We can help you give your trees the specific care that they deserve.



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Pinus torreyana (Torrey Pine)



The Torrey Pine is the rarest pine in America and was at one time the rarest pine in the world. Native to only San Diego County and some parts of the Channel Islands, the Torrey Pine is an incredibly unique and beautiful tree. With its grey bark and long, blue-green needles, the physical characteristics of the Torrey Pine are truly distinctive.

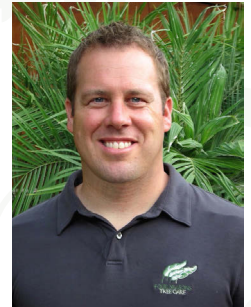
Although the Torrey Pine is usually discussed as a host to common pine pathogens, it was severely threatened by the Ips Beetle in 1991. The Torrey Pine does not require frequent pruning; its canopies do not develop heavy density as rapidly as many other common pine trees do. Typically, Torrey Pines can be trimmed once every three to four years, but may require annual monitoring in commercial landscapes to observe for broken limbs, canopy condition or the presence of beetle activity.

Pinus radiata (Monterey Pine)

The Monterey Pine is one of the most sensitive pines we work with. The Monterey Pine does not respond well to large pruning cuts; in fact, large cuts made along lateral branches can often result in the death of the entire branch. This isn't always the case, but we've witnessed it enough to make sure we recommend against those kinds of cuts.

If the Monterey Pine were an elementary school student, it would always be in the nurse's office and constantly using its inhaler. It would be the kid with a standard runny nose, multiple food allergies and would throw up on the bus. But we digress. The Monterey Pine is highly susceptible to Pine Pitch Canker and, when infected, attracts Bark Beetles. If an infected pine becomes infested with Bark Beetles, the Bark Beetle can transfer the disease to other pines in the area that are not resistant to the disease, such as *Pinus halepensis* (Aleppo Pine) and *Pinus brutia* 'eldarica' (Eldarica Pine).

The Monterey Pine, however sensitive, is not one of the pines that comes to mind when discussing tree risk. Few are large enough to be very threatening or they're usually removed before they can cause problems (as signs of tree health problems are usually pretty obvious). The canopies of these trees can become quite dense if left unmaintained, so a very light crown cleaning should be performed every two to three years.



We are excited to announce our newest Sales Manager, Kevin Rowe. Kevin joins our team after several years of running his own business in the North LA area. Kevin's experience in client relations and job management makes him a great asset to our team, and we are very thankful to be working with him.

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As you can see, pine trees are not all alike. Each species comes with its own genetic set of strengths and weaknesses that are very important to consider when making changes to your landscape. Since these trees can become very large, proper care is crucial in developing safe and healthy trees that can be enjoyed for generations.

If you are at all concerned about the condition of one of your pine trees or are skeptical about work that has been done in the past, be sure to contact a credible arborist to help you. It is very easy to be misled by a non-expert about the care your tree may require. If you have any immediate tree care needs or questions, please contact one of our experts. Myself Adam Heard, and the team here at Four Seasons Tree Care look forward to hearing from you!



DID YOU KNOW?

Pines grow fast and straight, reaching their full height in less than 20 years – which is why they provide 75% of the world's timber.

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Please Appease My
Tree's Disease

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