

# Norfolk Island Pine



## *Araucaria heterophylla*

- **Use:** Often given to be used as a small Christmas tree, these wonderful little trees can brighten your home long after the holidays end. While not true pines, their tiered branches, slender pyramidal or columnar shape, and narrow evergreen leaves appear pine-like.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Bright, indirect light is best. A south-facing window is often recommended. Prefers temperatures between and does not like to be placed near cold drafts or hot vents. High humidity is ideal, so mist the leaves, use a humidifier, or place the pot on a tray of pebbles filled with water.
- **Growth:** While this tree can grow quite large in its natural habitat, Norfolk Island pine is slow growing. After about a decade, it may eventually reach 5 to 8 feet tall as a houseplant, but this potted tree will not surprise you with explosive growth.
- **Hardiness:** Zone 10-11; Houseplant
- **Foliage:** Young trees having soft, awl-shaped, needle-like leaves and mature trees developing scale-like leaves, though both types can appear on the same plant. The leaves are typically a bright or dark green color and are arranged in whorls on the branches. Indoor plants often maintain their juvenile, more needle-like foliage.
- **Fruit:** They do not produce flowers in the traditional sense; they are cone-bearing plants, with separate male and female cones on different trees, though occasionally on the same tree. The female cones are large, spiny, and globose, and produce seeds, while the male cones are smaller and release pollen. Blooms are very rare, especially in indoor houseplants.

Indoors, these plants need quite bright light and humidity. If you find that your plant is not thriving, in all likelihood it is likely not receiving sufficient light or humidity.