

City of Falls Church 2019 Tree of the Year

Loblolly Pine (*Pinus taeda*)

Common names: Loblolly pine, aka North Carolina pine, old field pine, bull pine, rosemary pine. Commonly called "taeda" when used in plantation forestry outside its native range. The common name loblolly is given because it is found mostly in lowlands and swampy areas.

Taxonomic Notes: There are over 100 species of pines. *Pinus, taeda* is in the subsection *Australes* Loudon found in the SE U.S. and Caribbean, and includes most of the pines that co-occur with this species in mixed stands. Taeda forms a variety of natural hybrids within this group.

Description: Trees grow to 150 feet tall; with a trunk up to 5 feet thick, usually straight, without adventitious shoots; crown broadly conic to rounded. Bark red-brown, forming square or irregularly rectangular, scaly plates. Branches spreading-ascending; twigs orangish to yellow-brown, aging darker brown, rough. Cones mature in 2 years.

Distribution & Ecology: USA: New Jersey south to Florida, and west to Oklahoma, and Texas at 0-700 m elevation. Habitat mesic lowlands and swamp borders, to dry uplands. Hardy to Zone 7.

Largest and Oldest Trees: Diameter 5 feet, height 147 feet, crown spread 82 feet, located in Warren, AR (American Forests 1996). The largest tree in South Carolina, in Congaree Swamp National Park, is 5 feet, height 144 feet. Pederson (2006) reports a ring-counted age of 241 years for a big tree in the Congaree National Park, South Carolina.

Of Interest: *Taeda* is a Latin word for pine wood, or for a torch. Originally most races of *Pinus taeda* were in the lowlands. Following the settlement by Europeans, the species spread to fine-textured, fallow, upland soils. In the southeast US, *P. taeda* is commonly used in plantation forestry. Commercially, it is a valuable pulpwood and timber species. It is now an important species in plantations in South Africa, Zimbabwe, southern Brazil, Argentina, China and Australia.

Arbor Day Celebrations 2019 City of Falls Church, Virginia

April 27, 2019 ~ 1:00 pm ~ Berman Park

Sponsored by:

The Falls Church Village Preservation and Improvement Society
and the City of Falls Church, Virginia

Welcome

VPIS

Neighborhood Tree Program

Seth Heminway
NTP Committee

Tree of the Year

City Tree Commission

City Tree Efforts

Kate Reich
City Arborist

Tree City USA Award

Sarah Parmelee
Virginia Department of Forestry

Remarks by City Leadership

City Council

Adjourn to social and planting