Virginia Cooperative Extension

Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

. www.ext.vt.edu

# Lacebark Pine, Pinus bungeana

Alex X. Niemiera, Professor, School of Plant and Environmental Sciences, Virginia Tech

# Summary

**Foliage:** About 3 inches long; 3 needles per fascicle; stiff; evergreen **Height:** About 40 feet **Spread:** About 25 feet **Shape:** Conical in youth, irregular with age

# **Main Features**

Lacebark pine is a medium (sometimes large) conifer species that has strikingly beautiful bark. Bark is a camouflage-like patchwork of greens, silvery-white, creams, browns, and red-browns. There is a great amount of tree to tree variation in bark color; patchwork of colors begins to appear on approximately 2 inch diameter branches. Lacebark pine usually produces several main trunks which can be an asset since more trunks embellishes the showy bark characteristic. However, this multiple trunk tendency is also a liability since multiple trunks are not as sturdy as a single trunk, and multi-trunk trees are susceptible to snow and ice damage. The extra weight of snow and ice on branches will cause them to split away from the main (or large) trunks.

#### **Plant Needs**

Zone: 5 to 7 Light: Full sun Moisture: Average to somewhat dry Soil type: Average pH range: Acid

# **Functions**

This species can certainly be used as a specimen tree (has sufficiently notable attributes to be used as a focal point) in a garden or landscape.

# Care

Trees may be pruned at an early age to develop a single trunk. This species has relatively few pest problems.

# **Additional Information**

Lacebark pine is purported to have a slow growth rate, but I have found that under average conditions (minimum of stressful conditions) that a medium growth rate (1 to 2 feet per year) can be achieved. The cultivar 'Silver Ghost' has a silver-gray bark at a relatively young age. This species is highly revered in China and is often planted on the grounds of temples, graveyards, and emperor's palaces.

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Virginia State University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. Edwin J. Jones, Director, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg; M. Ray McKinnie, Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State University, Petersburg.