

# SPRUCE PINE

*Pinus glabra* Walt.

**OTHER COMMON NAMES:** Cedar pine, Walter pine, White pine, Lowland spruce pine, Black pine.

**FORM:** Usually 80-100 feet high, occasionally 120 feet, trunk diameter 2-2 1/2 feet comparatively small horizontal branches.

**BARK:** On young trees and upper trunk smooth, pale gray, 1/2-3/4 inches thick on old stems, slightly and irregularly divided by shallow fissures into flat connected ridges.

**TWIGS:** Slender, flexible, at first light red tinged with purple, finally dark reddish-brown.

**LEAVES:** In twos, soft, slender, dark green, 1 1/2-3 inches long, deciduous at end of second season and in spring of the third year.

**FLOWERS:** Male in short crowded clusters, yellow; female raised on slender, slightly ascending peduncles.

**FRUIT:** Cones single or in clusters of 2 or 3, reflexed, on short stalks, oblong-ovoid or subglobose, 1/2-2 inches long, reddish-brown, rather lustrous; scales concave with short prickles that are usually deciduous; seed, more or less triangular, 1/8 inch long, dark gray, mottled with black.

**WINTER BUDS:** Ovate, acute, about 1/4 inch long; scales ovate, lanceolate, chestnut-brown, separating on the margins into white matted shreds.

**WOOD:** Soft, light, not strong, brittle, close-grained, light brown, thick, nearly white sapwood.

**USES:** Pulp, rough lumber.

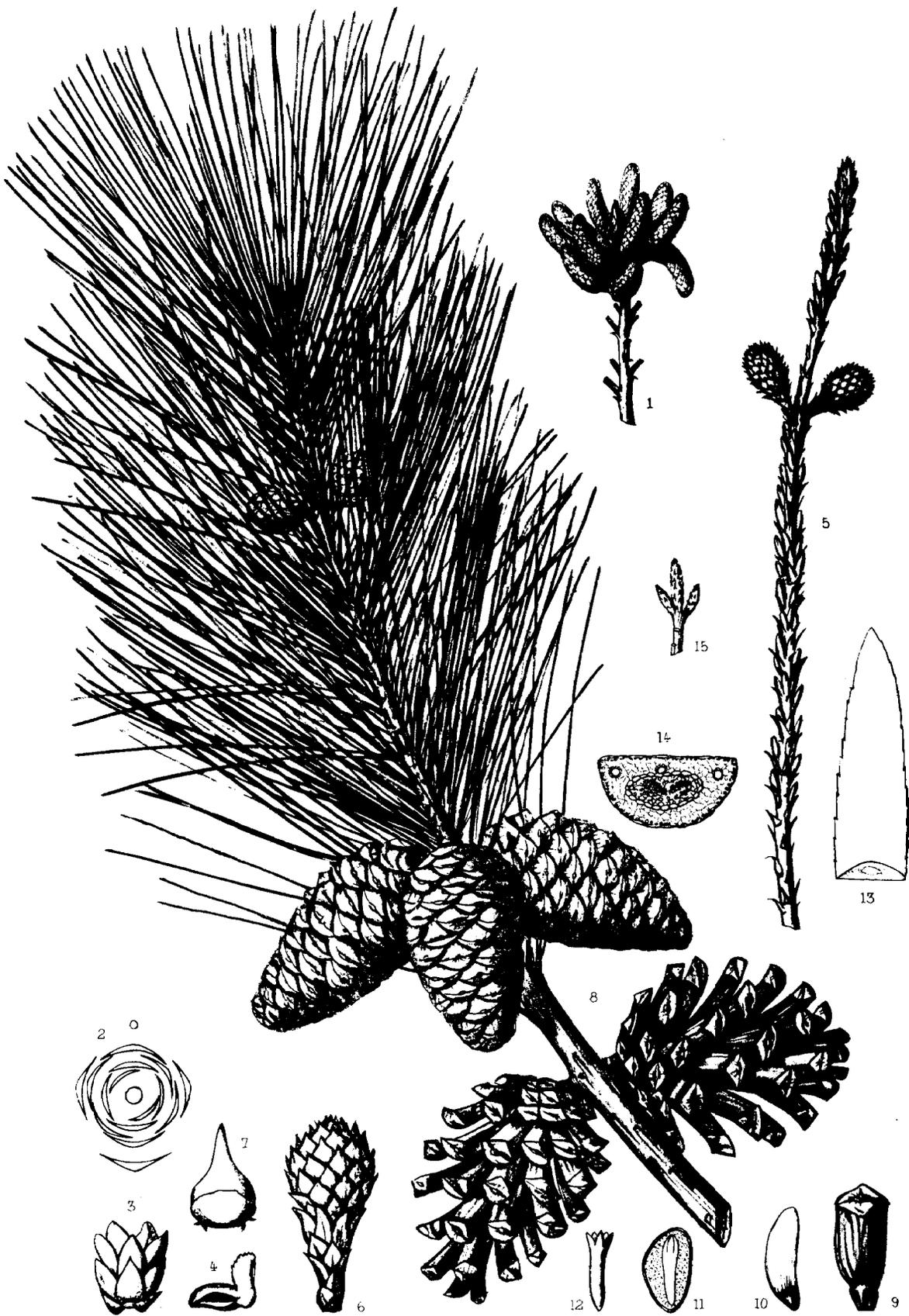
**HABITAT:** Low terraces along river swamps where subject to overflow, often occurs singly, highly shade tolerant when young.

**DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:** Short, dark green needles in cluster of two; bark resembles that of eastern white pine, gray and smooth on upper trunk and branches; small reddish-brown cones.

**DISTRIBUTION IN ALABAMA:** Southward from Sumter, Marengo, Dallas, Autauga, Macon, and Lee Counties.

## EXPLANATION OF PLATE

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. A cluster of staminate flowers                             | 8. A fruiting branch                        |
| 2. Diagram of the involucre of a staminate flower             | 9. A cone scale, lower side, with its bract |
| 3. Involucre of a staminate flower                            | 10. A seed                                  |
| 4. An anther, side view                                       | 11. Vertical section of a seed              |
| 5. An end of a branch with female cones                       | 12. An embryo                               |
| 6. A pistillate flower  | 13. Tip of a leaf                           |
| 7. A scale of a pistillate flower, lower side, with its bract | 14. Cross section of a leaf                 |
|   | 15. Winter branch buds                      |



**Pinus glabra Walt.**

**Plate 4**