

# LONGLEAF PINE

## *Pinus palustris* Mill.

OTHER COMMON NAMES: Hard pine, Heart pine, Longstraw pine, Pitch pine.

FORM: 100-120 feet high, 2-2 1/2 feet in diameter, occasionally 3 feet in diameter, slightly tapering trunk, stout, slightly branched, gnarled limbs forming an open, elongated and usually very irregular head, 1/3 to 1/2 the length of the tree.

BARK: 1/16-1/2 inch on the trunk, light orange-brown, separating on the surface into large, closely appressed scales.

TWIGS: Thick, orange-brown.

LEAVES: In clusters of 3, rarely 4 or 5, 8 to 18 inches long, slender, drooping, crowded in dense clusters at the ends of the branches and fall off at the end of the second year.

FLOWERS: Flowers very early in the spring before appearance of the new leaves; male in short dense clusters, dark rose-purple; female just below the apex of the lengthening shoot, in pairs or in clusters of 3 or 4, dark purple.

FRUIT: Mature cones 6 to 10 inches long, cylindric-ovoid, slightly curved and have a very short stem; cone scales thin and flat, rounded at the tip, armed with short or reflexed prickles; seed almost triangular, about 1/2 inch long, often marked with dark blotches on the upper side, wings about 1 3/4 inches long; seed sprout soon after falling to the ground.

WINTER BUDS: Gradually widen from the base to above the middle and then narrow to the acute apex; terminal bud often twice as large as the lateral buds, 2 to 2 1/2 inches long, covered with silvery-white lustrous scales divided on the margin, except near the apex, into long spreading filaments which form a cobweb-like network over the bud.

WOOD: Heavy, very hard, strong, tough, coarse-grained, durable; heartwood light red to orange color; sapwood thin, nearly white.

USES: Lumber, spars, poles, bridges, fencing, flooring, interior woodwork, resinous chemicals, pulp. Historical uses: masts, naval stores.

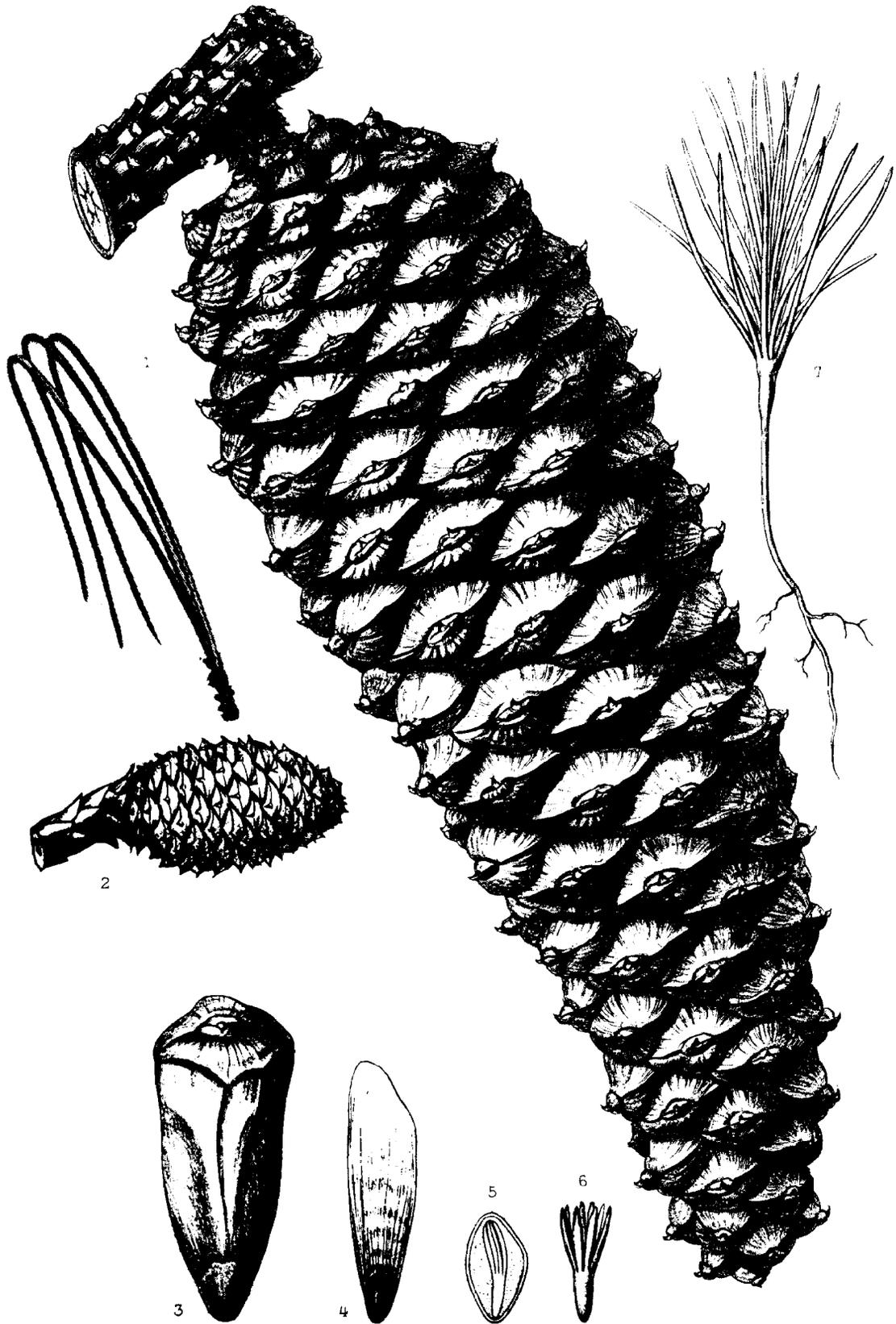
HABITAT: Well-drained, sandy and gravelly soils.

DISTINGUISHED CHARACTERISTICS: Long leaves clustered near the free terminal end of the branches, and open crown; bark of mature trees separating into thin, large scales; large cones.

DISTRIBUTION IN ALABAMA: South from Cherokee County, the full length of the east side of the state; from Walker, south in Hale, Dallas, Elmore and Autauga Counties; on the west side of Alabama from Sumter and Choctaw east and south to the Gulf and the Florida line.

### EXPLANATION OF PLATE

- |                             |                               |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. A fruiting branch        | 5. Vertical section of a seed |
| 2. A cone, one year old     | 6. An embryo                  |
| 3. A cone scale, lower side | 7. A seedling plant           |
| 4. A seed                   |                               |



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