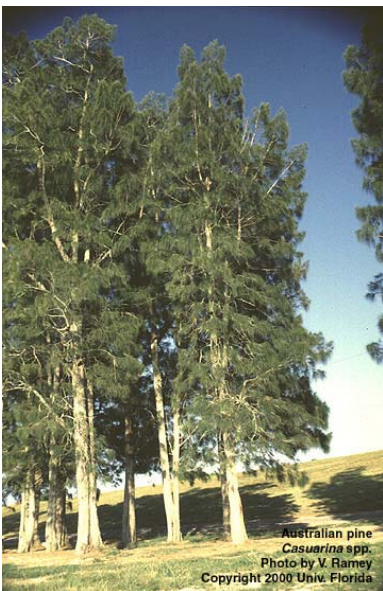


Invasive Species Profile: Australian Pine (*Casuarina* spp.)

Identifying Characteristics

Australian pine (*C. equisetifolia*) is an evergreen tree to 150 feet. Usually has a single trunk with reddish-brown to gray bark. Has needle-like branchlets that are jointed, thin, grayish-green, and 4 to 8 inches long. Seeds form in woody, cone-like clusters about 3/4 inch long and 1/2 inch wide; produced year-round.

Suckering Australian (*C. glauca*) pine grows to 70 feet tall with a pyramidal shape. Bark is dark gray-brown and scaly. Needle-like branchlets are 8 to 10 inches long and jointed, thin, and sometimes waxy. Has separate male and female plants and 10 to 17 leaf scales per branchlet.



Habitat

Introduced to Florida in the early 1900s and planted as windbreaks and shade trees. Found in abundance from Orlando to south Florida on sandy shores, pineland, and sawgrass marshes. Colonizes in disturbed sites such as road shoulders and undeveloped lots.

Growth Habits

Grows extremely fast -- 5 to 10 feet per year. Creates dense stands that displace native plants and wildlife. Trees blow over easily in storms because of shallow root systems. Seeds are dispersed by birds, water, and wind. Suckering Australian pine (*C. glauca*) reproduces aggressively from widely spreading roots, especially when pruned.

Control Methods --- Cut-Stump or Basal Bark

Large trees should be cut and the stump should be treated immediately with triclopyr ester. Basal bark applications are also effective.

Florida-Friendly Replacements:

- Longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*)
- Slash pine (*Pinus elliottii*)
- Red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*)