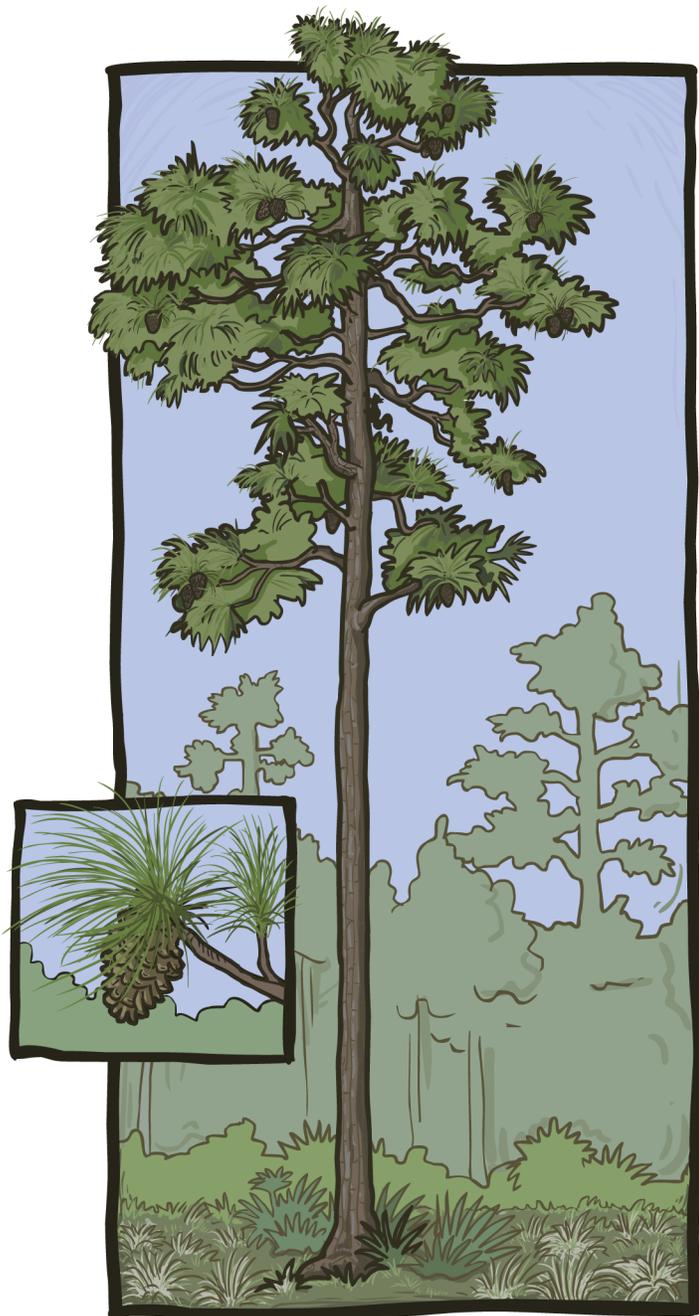


Longleaf Pine

(*Pinus palustris*)



Longleaf Pine Tree

Instant ID

- A towering tree, reaching 100 feet, with airy branches
- Needles between 10-15 inches, in clusters of 3
- Cones up to 10 inches long
- Bark arranged in plates with deep grooves
- Trunk ranges in color from gray to orange
- Branches often flatten out at the top of older trees

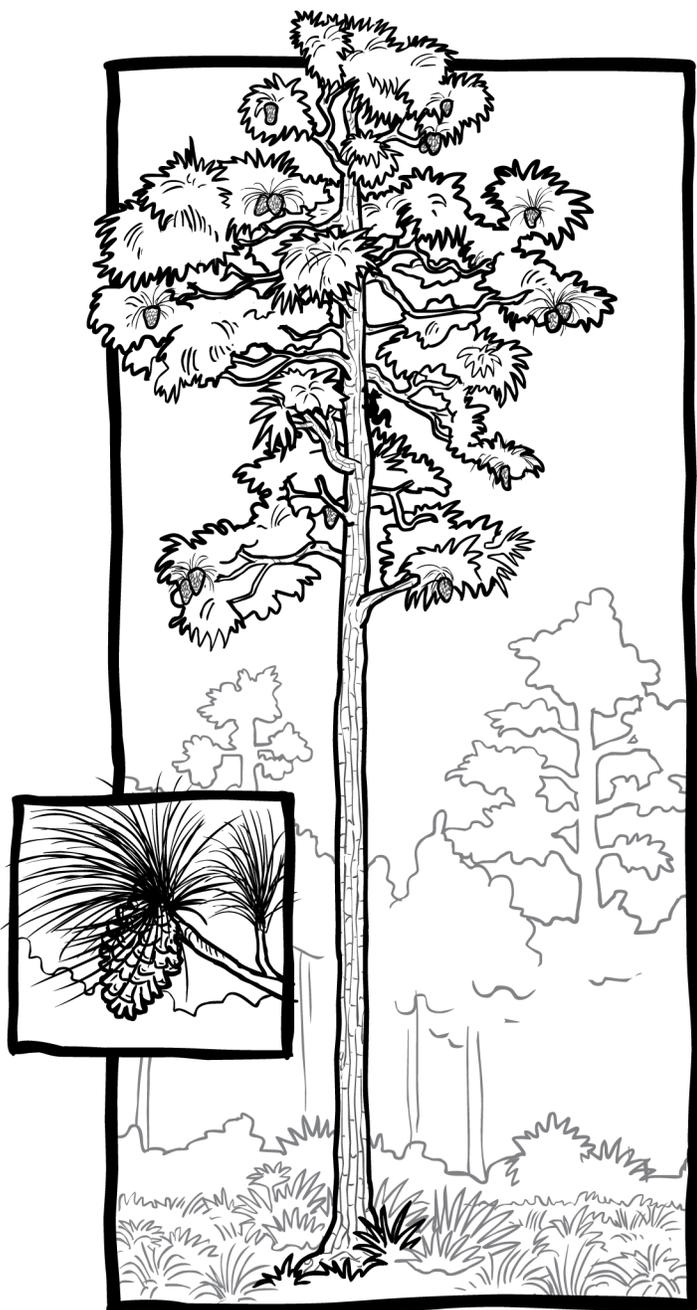
Native Niches

- Found in forests of the Atlantic and Gulf coastal plains
- Present throughout Florida, excluding southern tip and Florida Keys
- Grows in sandy, well drained acidic soils
- Often seen in stands (grouping dominated by one type of tree)



Longleaf Pine

(*Pinus palustris*)



Longleaf Pine Tree

Plant Particulars

- Has the longest needles and largest cones of any eastern pine
- Source of products for one of Florida's earliest industries, naval stores
- Old specimens can still be seen with scars ("cat facing" remnants of the turpentine industry)
- Life cycle reliant upon periodic fire, historically started by lightning strikes

Population Protection

- Less than 4% of original longleaf pine forest remaining
- Prescribed fire, performed by the Florida Park Service and other government agencies, is a way to apply natural process, ensure ecosystem health and reduce wildfire risk
- Red-cockaded woodpeckers, gopher tortoises, eastern indigo snakes and several other imperiled species rely on the longleaf pine forest

