

JACK PINE

Pinus banksiana Lamb.

Jack or gray pine grows on sandy, rocky, shallow acid soils. It is known to occur naturally at Alamoosook Lake in Orland, Schoodic Point in Winter Harbor, Great Wass Island in Beals, Matagamon Lake, Cliff Lake, Lobster Lake, and in the areas south and west of Jackman.



The spreading branches are long and flexible and form an open head of symmetrical outline. At maturity the tree is about 50-60 feet tall, and 8-10 inches in diameter. Cones are often produced when the trees are only a few years old.

The **bark** is thin with irregular rounded ridges. It is dark brown in color, with a slight tinge of red. The **leaves** are in clusters of 2, and are $\frac{3}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches long. They are stout, yellow-green at first, dark green later, rather flat, and twisted at the base. The **cones** require 2 years to mature, are rather slender, $1\frac{1}{2}$ - 2 inches long, and without a stalk. They are very much curved. The scales have minute prickles which are often deciduous. The cones usually remain closed for several years (unless exposed to extreme heat), and often do not fall for 12-15 years.

The **wood** is moderately hard, heavy, and close grained. It is used mostly for pulp.