Pinaceae Pinus

Pinus cembra
Arolla pine, Swiss stone pine

Height 10 - 15 (25) m, slow growing
Crown initially narrow, later broad pyramidal, half-open crown
Bark and branches grey-green bark, smooth, later grooved, orange-brown twigs
Leaf straight stiff needles, 5 together, dark bluish green, 5 - 12 cm, evergreen
Flowers unremarkable, ♂ reddish brown, ♀ purple, fragrant flowers
Fruits upright cones, 5 - 8 cm, do not appear until after 70 - 80 years
Spines/thorns none
Toxicity non-toxic (usually)
Soil type all types, nutritious, well-permeable
Paving tolerates no paving
Winter hardiness 3 (-40.0 to -34.5 °C)
Wind resistance very good
Wind / frost / salt resistant to frost (WH 1 - 6)
Light requirement light-loving
Fauna tree provides food for birds
Application parks, tree containers, cemeteries, roof gardens, industrial areas, large gardens
Type/shape clearstem conifer, specimen conifer
Origin Central Europe, Northern Asia

Native to the mountain regions of Central Europe and Northern Asia, where the tree grows to extreme heights. When young, P. cembra grows straight upwards and narrowly pyramidal, later it broadens with a flattened top and slightly hanging branches. It usually forms several tops. The lower branches remain full if the tree has ample free space around it. Pinus cembra is a slow grower that can grow to become up to 1,000 years old. The smooth, grey-green bark becomes grooved and dark later. Young twigs are initially yellowish brown and velvety but turn orange-brown later. The fairly stiff, erect needles grow in bundles of 5 together. They are bluish green and have bluish white stomata on the inside. Cones do not appear until after 70 - 80 years. This Pinus is resistant to urban climates and requires a site with ample light.