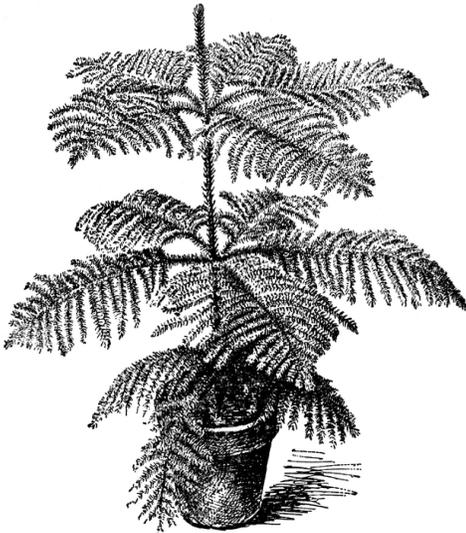

NORFOLK PINE

The Norfolk pine is a vascular plant in the ancient conifer family Araucariaceae. As its vernacular name it is referred to as the Norfolk Island pine or Norfolk pine with its name being the implication of where it is native to. These trees are commonly sold as evergreen houseplants, yet in nature they can reach nearly 200' on a small Pacific island between New Zealand and New Caledonia called Norfolk Island. In the surrounding area there are approximately 13 closely related species. It is also referred to as the star pine, Polynesian pine, triangle tree, or living Christmas tree, although it is not a true pine. Norfolk pines were first discovered by James Cook in 1774 during a voyage to the South Pacific.



Latin Name: Araucaria heterophylla

Type: Evergreen tropical conifer

Hardiness: Zone 9, not frost hardy

Size: 6'

Exposure: Bright indirect or direct light

Soil: Moisture retaining potting mix

Growth Rate: Medium

Growth Habit: Pyramidal

Where should I plant my Norfolk pine?

Norfolk pines are not frost hardy below 32 degrees but make an excellent specimen houseplant. They grow quickly indoors and can reach up to 6 feet. They enjoy bright, indirect light and moisture retentive potting mix. This can be achieved by mixing peat moss, potting soil, and sand, however premade mixes are also available. They need more room to grow than some other houseplants and should be placed in a container at least 2" larger than the original can when transplanting. Norfolk pines are commonly sold as an evergreen coniferous houseplant, particularly during the winter holiday months.

How much water will my Norfolk pine need?

These conifers like to be treated similarly to other leafy green houseplants such as pothos and dieffenbachia. They prefer to dry out 1" between watering. Check the mixture before watering as these plants do not like to be over watered. They enjoy temperatures between 65-85 degrees and 55 degrees at night. They also prefer relative humidity at about 50%.

When should I fertilize my Norfolk pine?

Norfolk pines enjoy a moderate feeding schedule with a balanced granular or water-soluble fertilizer. Water soluble fertilizer can be used once every 2 weeks during the growing season. They do not need to be fed during the dormant seasons of late autumn and winter.

Are there any pests or diseases I should be aware of?

Norfolk pines are not typically bothered by many pests and diseases, however there are a few. As houseplants they can suffer from common pests such as mealy bugs and scale insects. One of the most common diseases is needle necrosis, which is a gradual deadening of the plant caused by trauma or bacteria.