

ARAUCARIA HETEROPHYLLA – PINE OF NORFOLK'S ISLAND

Araucaria Heterophylla or most popular called Araucaria Excelsia, Araucaria or Pine of Norfolk's Island, it's a conifer tree that belongs to the Araucariaceae's family. It's an endemic tree (specific to certain areas) from the Island of Norfolk in Australia but currently is vastly expanded worldwide thanks to the human action due to its great visual impact and value.

ETYMOLOGY:

Araucaria: Geographical generic name related to its location in ARAUCO

Heterophylla: Latin epithet meaning "with different leaves"

DESCRIPTION:

The most attractive visual impact of this tree is its top and their branches arrangement, but in particular about its geometry.

From its straight trunk, the branches are set up by levels almost horizontal position. Curiously, at each level, five branches are willing in a pentagon figure.

The crocket of the tree is made up of leaves in scales shape. It's a evergreen tree but with slow growing.

It's a dioecious tree, its means, where the male and female flowers are in different trees but it can be too a monoecious tree.



Its fruits have globe cones until 12cm of diameter and its sexual reproduction assures keeps its symmetry branches configuration.

DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT:

As mentioned before, this tree is also known as Pine of Norfolk due to that it has been discovered in the island of Norfolk (Australia - Pacific ocean) by the English Captain James Cook during its second trip in 1774. The island was covered by great forests of this species.

The trunks of this tree are quite straight and strong until 80m height. They were really appreciated in shipbuilding business where they were used as masts in wooden sailships from the Royal Army.



Illustration of younger leaves (see in the background) and adults leaves too

USES:

These trees tend to reach heights between 50 to 80m but they are normally cultivated and cared as inner plants during the teenager phase because it is a slow growing species. This species is considered as a vulnerable (**VU**) following the *International Union for Conservation of Nature Institute (IUCN)*

TAXONOMY CLASS.

Kingdom:	Plantae
Division:	Pinophyta
Class:	Pinopsida
Order:	Pinewood
Family:	Araucariaceae
Gender:	Araucaria
Species:	A. heterophylla

