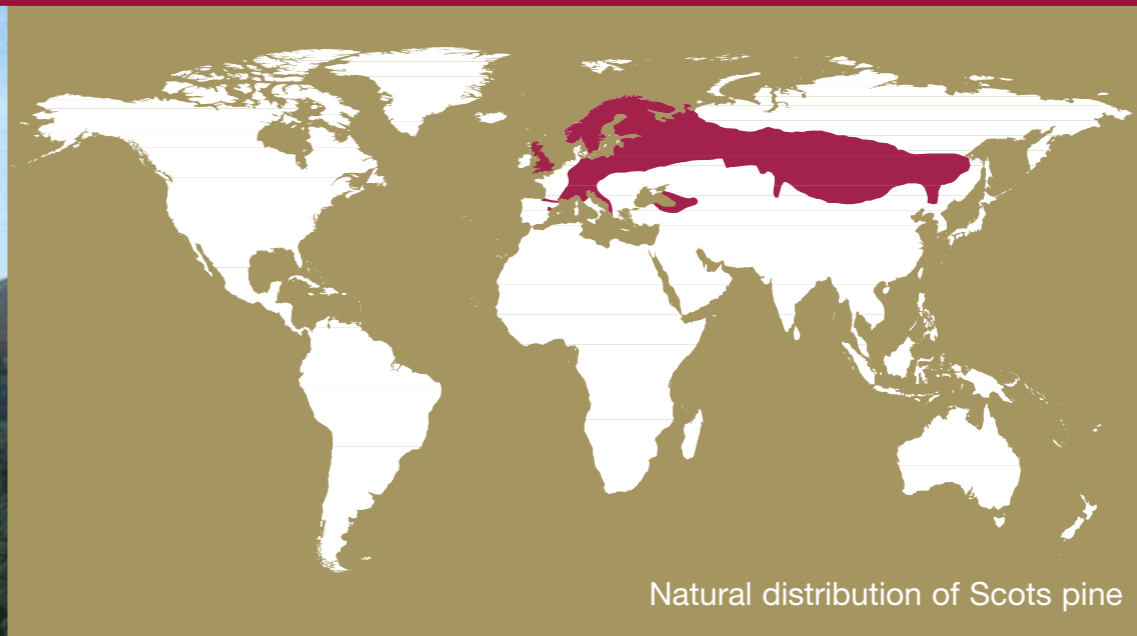


Scots pine *Pinus sylvestris*



Natural distribution of Scots pine



illustration by John White

The paired needles and distinctive cones are a good way to identify Scots pine. Look for the pinky-orange bark at the top of the trunk too.

Many parts of your house might be made from this tree.

Scots pine is an important tree for commercial forestry in North and East Europe and its timber is commonly used in joinery and building work.

Today remnants of the ancient Caledonian pine forests still grow in the Scottish Highlands and form a valuable wildlife habitat for creatures such as the capercaillie and red squirrel. Unfortunately there is only one percent of the forest left, due to overcutting for timber as well as overgrazing by sheep and deer. Now the Forestry Commission in Scotland is working with other organisations to re-establish these ancient pine forests.

Did you know?

Scots pine is one of only three native conifers (together with yew and common juniper) that re-colonised Britain following the last ice age.

Native Scots pine woodlands
in Glen Affric, Scotland.

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adventure in a world of trees