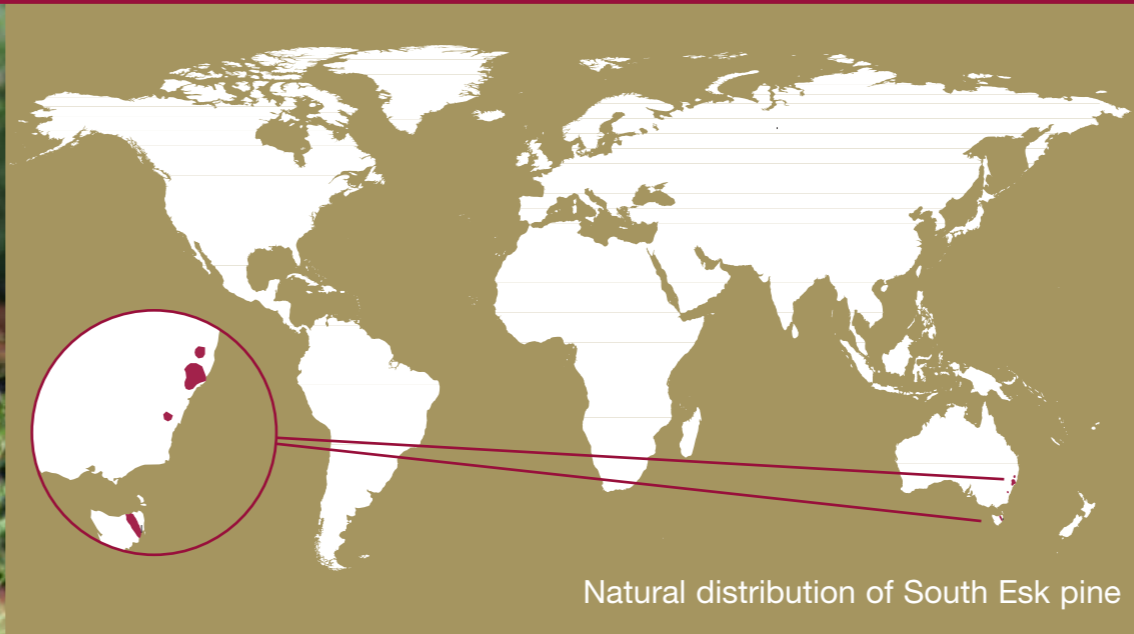


# South Esk pine *Callitris oblonga*

Young South Esk pines growing in the Bedgebury nursery - part of the conservation effort to save this endangered tree.



Natural distribution of South Esk pine



illustrations by John White

Thread-like, blue-green needles are a pointer to help identify the South Esk pine. The scales of the cones alternate in length, and the tree rarely reaches more than nine metres in height.

## Bedgebury is helping to save these trees.

In its native Tasmania and New South Wales the South Esk pine is at risk of disappearing entirely in the wild. The few remaining trees are in isolated patches; vulnerable to frequent fires and grazing animals.

The plight of this endangered tree has been overlooked until now, possibly because it is not widely used for timber or in gardens. Without our help and that of our partner organisations, it might disappear entirely.

Staff from the National Pinetum have collected seed from native wild trees to try to save it. Some of the seed is stored in the Millennium Seed Bank at Wakehurst Place. We are also growing new South Esk pines from the seed, both to plant here at Bedgebury and to share with other botanic gardens.

## Did you know?

You are very unlikely to see these kinds of trees in the UK - we think these might be some of the only *Callitris* growing outside in British gardens at the moment.