

Araucaria cunninghamii

Araucariaceae

N.E. Australia, New Guinea

Common names: **English:** Hoop pine, Moreton Bay pine.

Ecology: An Australian tree, less regular in shape than other *Araucaria*, the wide spreading branches having tufts of leafy branchlets. It grows from sea level to over 1,000 m and has been used as a good timber for veneer, plywood and indoor use. It has been introduced into East Africa and planted in plantations at lower altitudes in central Uganda.

Uses: Timber, ornamental.

Description: A tall evergreen tree about 50 m high with spreading, widely spaced **upcurved branches** bearing dense tufts of branchlets. The trunk can reach a massive 3 m in diameter. **BARK:** rough, shiny brown and flaking, **hoop-like rings made by horizontal cracking.** **LEAVES:** **young leaves rather triangular, sharply pointed 1-2 cm** long, but mature leaves softer, narrow and curved inwards, overlapping, crowded along the branchlets, all dark green. **CONES:** **male "cones" soft to 7 cm long** in hanging clusters, turning **orange-red with pollen; female cones hard and green about 8 cm and erect, covered with scales, each with a sharp recurved tip.**

Propagation: Seedlings.

Seed: Mature cones can be collected from trial plots and plantations and seed collected by shaking out. Seedlings are difficult to raise as germination and survival rates are low. Sow seeds in seed beds and transplant into pots.

treatment:

storage: Sow as soon as collected.

Management: Pruning required at intervals. Fast growing.

Remarks: Once established, growth is very fast. So far, trees planted in trial plots and in a few plantations in Uganda are doing well. *Araucaria angustifolia* is another species that also does well and should be raised in the same way.

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