

Discover the Flora of Our Campus

Eldar pine (*Pinus eldarica*)

Pinus eldarica, commonly known as the “Eldar pine,” is an evergreen coniferous tree that is highly drought-tolerant. Its needles are dark green, stiff, and typically arranged in pairs. When young, the crown is dense and conical, but as the tree matures it becomes broader and more open. The cones are medium-sized, hard, and woody.

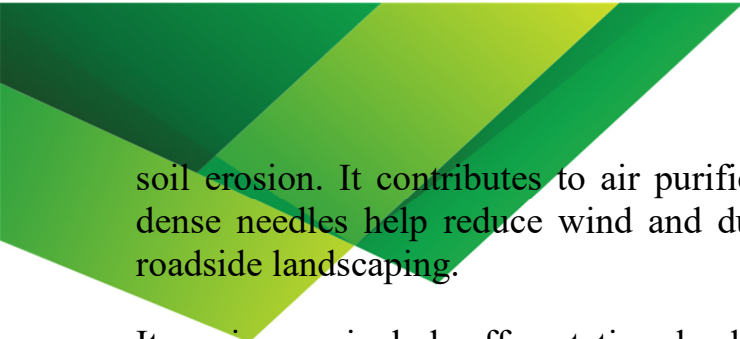


This species is considered native mainly to Azerbaijan and the eastern Caucasus region. In nature, it grows in dry, semi-desert, and foothill areas, showing strong adaptability to harsh climatic conditions. In Azerbaijan, it is especially widespread on the Absheron Peninsula and other arid zones. It is also planted in many countries for afforestation and landscaping purposes.

Pinus eldarica thrives in sunny locations and grows best under full sunlight. It is extremely drought-resistant and can survive with minimal water. It is not very demanding in terms of soil and can grow even in poor, rocky soils. It shows high resistance to wind and heat. Although it does not grow very

fast, it is long-lived and develops steadily over time.

In terms of human and ecological impact, the Eldar pine plays an important ecological role. It helps create greenery in dry and semi-desert regions and prevents



soil erosion. It contributes to air purification and improves the microclimate. Its dense needles help reduce wind and dust levels. It is widely used in urban and roadside landscaping.

Its main uses include afforestation, landscape design, and protective green belts. It is an ideal tree for creating “green corridors” in arid regions. It is also planted as an ornamental conifer in parks and gardens. Its wood and resin have secondary economic value. However, it is most valued for its ecological stability.

Interestingly, *Pinus eldarica* is one of the few pine species capable of surviving in extremely harsh climates, including semi-desert conditions. In Azerbaijan, the natural “Eldar Plain” is associated with this tree. Its longevity and low maintenance requirements make it highly valuable for landscaping. It is considered one of the most drought-resistant pine species in the world.

