



SCOTS PINE CARE

LIGHT

Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*), also sold as Scotch pine, needs full sun. *Glauca Nana* and *Hillside Creeper* differ greatly from the upright species in form. Give low spreading selections enough width, and do not place them where shade from adjacent shrubs will thin their foliage.

WATER

Water the original root ball and surrounding soil deeply when they begin to dry. New pines need regular checks through the first growing seasons, including dry autumn weather. Allow drainage between waterings. Do not assume rain has reached a dense root ball beneath the branches.

SOIL & PLANTING

Use well-drained soil with the root flare near the surface. Established Scots pine tolerates relatively poor or dry soils, but new plants should not be left to dry out completely. Avoid a permanently wet site. Keep mulch away from low branch bases as well as the main trunk.

FEEDING

Feed according to a soil test and plant vigor rather than a strong annual routine. Poor drainage, drought, or an unsuitable site cannot be corrected with extra nitrogen. Follow the label for any recommended application and keep fertilizer away from the trunk and dry, stressed roots.

SEASONAL CARE

Preserve the cultivar's natural framework and remove damaged branches selectively. If size control is needed, lightly shorten soft new spring candles before needles fully expand. Avoid cutting into bare old wood, which may not refill. Do not top the plant or apply intensive bonsai pruning to a landscape specimen.

HELPFUL TIPS

Orange-brown bark on older upper branches can be normal. Keep an eye on expanding tip dieback or thinning rather than judging health by bark color alone. Creeping cultivars should retain their spreading outline. This guide is for *P. sylvestris*, not mugo pine or a generic plant labeled only as dwarf pine.