

Araucaria cunninghamii

Araucariaceae

N.E. Australia, New Guinea

Eng: Hoop pine

Ecology: An Australian tree with wide-spreading branches which arise from one level around the main trunk. When they fall a ring or hoop is left, hence the name. 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. In Eritrea, it was introduced in the 1940s and is mainly planted as **an** ornamental in home gardens in Asmara.

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. Mature cones release winged seeds which fall to the ground in quantity.

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: Tolerates pollarding and pruning. Once established, growth is very fast.

Remarks:

