

Mexico

- Common names** **English:** Mexican weeping pine, spreading-leaved pine, tecote pine.
- Ecology:** Probably the most widely planted pine in tropical Africa. It is tolerant of most soils and will grow in grassland. It grows best with good water supplies but can also survive adverse conditions. In Uganda it does well at higher elevations but at lower elevations does not produce cones.
- Uses:** Firewood, posts, timber.
- Description:** An evergreen tree to 35 m with light green, **weeping foliage** and a long straight trunk; branches more or less horizontal, turning up at the tips. **BARK:** grey to dark brown, fairly smooth, papery red-brown on young branches. **LEAVES:** long slender "needles", **soft but hard tipped, 15-23 cm long, in bundles of 3.** **CONES:** female: small hard red spheres mature in 2 years to shiny brown cones, **base oblique, to 10 cm long in clusters of 2-5 without stalks.** Male: on the same tree, **short terminal catkins**, yellow-brown, producing clouds of dust-like pollen. Seeds develop below the cone scales and are released over a long period.
- Propagation:** Seedlings.
- Seed:** No. of seeds per kg: 110,000-170,000.
- treatment:** not necessary,
- storage:** seed can be stored.
- Management:** Fast growing.
- Remarks:** A good tree for pure stands, but it should not be grown near crops due to its shallow root system. The wood is easily worked, fairly light and soft, and pale brown in colour.

