

Plant Profiles: HORT 2242 Landscape Plants II

Botanical Name: *Pinus densiflora* 'Umbraculifera'

Common Name: Japanese red pine, tanyosho pine

Family Name: Pinaceae – pine family

General Description: *Pinus densiflora* 'Umbraculifera' is an elegant plant with a unique combination of ornamental features. It is a slow growing dwarf tree or shrub with soft light green foliage and flaky orange bark on branches that radiate out in an umbrella-like pattern. The cultivar 'Umbraculifera' is sometimes listed as 'Tanyosho' and goes by a variety of common names including: tanyosho pine, Japanese umbrella pine, and tabletop pine. In addition, there are several other cultivars worthy of landscape use including: *Pinus densiflora* 'Oculus-draconis' and *Pinus densiflora* 'Umbraculifera Compacta'. The straight species, *Pinus densiflora*, Japanese red pine, is native to Japan where it is a very common tree. However, the straight species does not grow well in the Chicago area and is rarely seen.

Zone: 3-7

Resources Consulted:

Dirr, Michael A. *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants: Their Identification, Ornamental Characteristics, Culture, Propagation and Uses*. Champaign: Stipes, 2009. Print.

Missouri Botanical Garden. Missouri Botanical Garden, n.d. Web. 1 Feb. 2014.

Creator: Julia Fitzpatrick-Cooper, Professor, College of DuPage

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Keywords/Tags: Pinaceae, tree, conifer, cone, needle, evergreen, *Pinus densiflora*, Japanese red pine, tanyosho pine



Whole plant/Habit:

- Description: *Pinus densiflora* 'Umbraculifera' has a distinctive habit. It is multi-stem near the base with branches radiating out like the spokes of an umbrella. The crown is described as flat-topped to umbrella-like.
- Image Source: Karren Weisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: November 3, 2008
- Image File Name: tanyosho_pine_1080078.png



Whole plant/Habit:

- Description: This approximately 90 year old specimen located on the Conifer Walk at The Morton Arboretum, is a fantastic example of the habit and elegant beauty of *Pinus densiflora* 'Umbraculifera'. However, in most landscape situations this slow-growing cultivar is expected to only reach 15 feet after 30 years. According to the Missouri Botanical Garden, the type of rootstock used may in large part determine the mature size of the plant.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: September 7, 2008
- Image File Name: tanyosho_pine_1040501.png



Bark:

- Description: The beautiful flaky orange bark on branches that radiate out in an umbrella-like branching pattern is tanyosho pine's most outstanding feature. The bark is reminiscent of *P. sylvestris*, Scots pine. At the base of a mature tree the bark becomes thick, platy and gray.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: November 3, 2008
- Image File Name: tanyosho_pine_1080074.png



Branch/Twig:

- Description: Branch/twig features are not an overly important identification feature. However, upon close inspection the newest growth is glaucous green (gray/green) changing to orange/yellow with age. Of course, the larger branches will have orange flaky bark.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: February 4, 2011
- Image File Name: tanyosho_pine_1250158.png

**Bud:**

- Description: The bud is reddish brown and resinous but is not a significant identification feature. Notice the stem of the new growth is glaucous green.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: January 25, 2014
- Image File Name: tanyosho_pine_5561.png

**Flower:**

- Description: Though not true flowers the reproductive structures on pines are often referred to as such. Pines are monoecious; producing male pollen cones (on left) and separate female seed cones (on right) all on the same plant. Male pollen cones are clustered at the base of new growth. Female cones form near the tip of new growth. The color phases can vary according to species. Note: This photo is meant to show general images for “flowers”. The images are not from the same pine species and may not be of the same species referenced in this Plant Profile.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: Early June
- Image File Name: pinus_flower-00.png

**Flower:**

- Description: Notice the male pollen cones at the base of the emerging new growth of this tanyosho pine. Pines in general are known for producing copious amounts of pollen.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: April 5, 2012
- Image File Name: tanyosho_pine_1350984.png

**Cone:**

- Description: *Pinus densiflora* 'Umbraculifera' is known for producing large amounts of female cones attached either solitary or in clusters. Cones can remain on the tree for several years.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: January 25, 2014
- Image File Name: tanyosho_pine_5567.png

**Cone:**

- Description: The cones are small, only about 1 inch wide by 1.5-2 inches long, and are golden brown to tan in color.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: February 8, 2011
- Image File Name: tanyosho_pine_1250321s.png

**Leaf Number/Attachment:**

- Description: *Pinus densiflora* 'Umbraculifera' is a 2-needle pine. The needles are thin, soft, flexible and a light, bright green color.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: January 25, 2014
- Image File Name: tanyosho_pine_5562.png

**Leaf Number/Attachment:**

- Description: The tufts of thin, fine needles are located primarily at the tips of the branches. This is an excellent identification feature.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: June 1, 2008
- Image File Name: tanyosho_pine_1171.png

**Winter interest:**

- Description: Tanyosho pine is especially beautiful in the winter as snow highlights its unique form and contrast nicely with the ornamental bark. Notice the color variation between these two tanyosho pines. It is common for the winter foliage to vary in color from the normal light green to yellow green. However, these tanyosho pines planted at The Morton Arboretum show a degree of this color variation throughout the year probably due to typical genetic diversity within a species.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: January 25, 2014
- Image File Name: tanyosho_pine_5581.png

**Special ID feature(s):**

- Description: The umbrella-like habit, soft foliage at the tips and orange, flaky bark are the best identification features of *Pinus densiflora* 'Umbraculifera'. Add in the large numbers of small cones and this is an easy to identify tree. A trip to The Morton Arboretum just to stand under these magnificent trees is well worth it!
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: September 8, 2012
- Image File Name: tanyosho_pine_5056.png