

***Araucaria columnaris* (Christmas Tree)**

Classification

Kingdom: Plantae

Phylum: Tracheophyta

Class: Pinopsida

Order: Pinales

Family: Araucariaceae

Genus: Araucaria

Species: columnaris



PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Trunk: Columnar shape with a straight trunk lightweight and can grow upto 200 feet.

Leaves: Leaves are arranged in a spiral pattern on the branches, needle-like.

Cones: Large, cylindrical, brown and woody, with scales that open to release seeds and 4-8 inches long and 2-3 inches wide.

DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT

Native to the islands of New Caledonia, Norfolk Island, and the Isle of Pines. It is found in tropical and subtropical forests, coastal areas, including beaches and rocky shores, mountainous regions.

CULTIVATION AND USES

The wood is used for paper production. The tree's unique shape and foliage make it a popular choice for landscaping and gardening.

INTERESTING FACTS

Araucaria columnaris is considered a living fossil, meaning it has remained relatively unchanged since the time of the dinosaurs.