WACD PLANT MATERIALS CENTER
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Shore Pine *(Pinus contorta var. contorta)*

Distribution
Shore Pine occurs from Alaska south, to northern California, where it is predominantly found at lower elevation and coastal environments.

Growth Habit
Typically Shore Pine is a short tree at 50-60 feet in height. Often the trunk is contorted and has dark brown to blackest plated bark. Long, paired needles are curved and twisted with a deep green color.

Adaptability
Shore Pine has a wide range of adaptability. It can be found from wet, low, poorly drained sites, to steep upland, rocky, dry sites. It is adapted to sites with low soil fertility. It is often the only tree species on very difficult sites. Growth and vigor improve with proper site preparation and maintenance however.

Comments
- Shore Pines high tolerance to heavy, wet soils makes it a good species for the riparian zone.
- More important, it has exhibited an ability to compete with reed canary grass and other riparian invaders, particularly when planted on a close spacing.
- Its high level of drought tolerance also makes it a good restoration species for drier and more upland sites. It can survive the rigors of re-establishing hot, open sites, allowing more suitable conditions for other species to naturalize and establish.
- It often grows where Red Cedar, Douglas Fir, Willows, and Cottonwoods fall prey to field mice and voles and larger foragers. Once a site is under control, in 8 to 10 years, the planting could be thinned and inter-planted with Western Red Cedar, Douglas Fir, and other species.
- Shore Pine and Lodgepole Pine are closely related. They are subspecies of *Pinus contorta.* Lodgepole Pine is *Pinus contorta latifolia,* while Shore Pine is *Pinus contorta contorta.* Distribution and growth habit are the most notable differences. Shore Pine is primarily located on the cost while Lodgepole Pine located inland. Lodgepole Pine has a more symmetrical and straight growth habit than Shore Pine. They do however share similar adaptability.