Common Names: Australian-pine, beefwood, ironwood, she-oak, horsetail tree
Synonymy: Casuarina littorea L. ex Fosberg & Sachet, C. littorea Rumpheus ex Stickman
Origin: Australia, south Pacific Islands, Southeast Asia

Botanical Description: Evergreen tree to 46 m (150 ft) tall, usually with single trunk and open, irregular crown. Bark reddish brown to gray, rough, brittle, peeling. Branchlets pine-needle-like, grayish green, jointed, thin (<1 mm wide), 10-20 cm (4-8 in) long, minutely ridged, hairy in furrows. Leaves reduced to tiny scales, 6-8 in whorls encircling joints of branchlets. Flowers unisexual (monoecious), inconspicuous, female in small axillary clusters, male in small terminal spikes. Fruit a tiny, 1-seeded, winged nutlet (samara), formed in woody cone-like clusters (fruiting heads), these brown, to 2 cm (3/4 in) long and 1.3 cm (1/2 in) wide.

NOTE: May be confused with the related exotics, C. glauca, which has 10-17 leaf scales per whorl (see following pages), and C. cunninghamiana Miquel, which has 8-10 scales per whorl.

**Distribution**: Occurs throughout south Florida, from Orlando south, on sandy shores and in pinelands. Frequently colonizes disturbed sites, such as filled wetlands, road shoulders, cleared land, and undeveloped lots (Maxwell 1984). Occurs as far north as Dixie County on the west coast and Volusia County on the east (Wunderlin et al. 1995). Naturalized also in West Indies, Mexico, and elsewhere in tropical America (Long and Lakela 1971).

**Life History**: Not freeze tolerant; sensitive to fire (Morton 1980). Loses branches easily and topples easily in high winds (Morton 1980). Produces allelopathic compounds that inhibit growth of other vegetation (Morton 1980). Can colonize nutrient-poor soils easily by nitrogen-fixing microbial associations (Wilson 1997). Reproduces prolifically by seed, as many as 300,000 to the pound, with seeds dispersed by birds (especially exotic parrots and parakeets), water, and wind (Morton 1980). Fruiting heads float (Maxwell 1984).