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Sciadopitys verticillata (Japanese Umbrella Pine) ID #783

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SRU BIO140L Arboretum Project

Japanese Umbrella Pine

Sciadopitys verticillata

Tree #783

Claire Cavanagh

27 April 2022

SRU BIO 140L Abortum Project
Claire Cavanagh

Japenese Umbrella Pine

Sciadopitys verticillata

Tree Number: 783

Location: Back of Library, West side of
Parking Lot

Heigh Class: Medium

DBH: (cm) 15

Radius of Crown: (m) 10

Condition: Good

Age Class: Mature

Dates of Observation:

01/30/2022

02/15/2022

03/7/2022

04/14/2022

Claire Cavanagh



Observation 1

02/15/2022

Japanese Umbrella Pine on a 30-degree late afternoon. The photo was taken at 4:30 pm. The umbrella pine gets sun year-round. This tree stays healthy year-round. This tree is at its mature stage therefore branches and height are at their full growth potential. According to my research, “as the tree ages, the branches become more pendulous and graceful” (Carroll 2021).



Observation 2

03/07/2022

On March 7, 2022, I went back to my tree and analyzed the bark. Based on my research of the Umbrella Pine, “the ornamental reddish or orange bark sheds in long strips, adding to its exotic appeal” (Carroll 21).



Observation 3

04/14/2022

On April 14, 2022, I studied the Umbrella Pine needles. The needles are dark green and shiny and feel as if they are made of plastic. The needles tend to be 2-5 inches long and grow in whorls around the branch (Carroll 2021). As shown in the picture on the right, once the Umbrella Pine matures, “it sets cones that are 2 to 4 inches (5 to 10 cm.) long and 1 to 2 inches (2.5 to 5 cm.) wide” (Carroll 2021). These cones start off green and mature to the color brown as shown. An interesting fact about these cones is that you can start trees from the seeds they hold.



Summary narrative

The Japanese Umbrella Pine (*Sciadopitys verticillata*) is indigenous to Japan. It is said to be one of the five sacred trees from Japan’s Kiso forest (Beaulieu 2021). *Sciadopitys verticillata* g means “whorled”, which refers to the particular arrangement of the needles. This “whorled” arrangement is also how the tree got its common name, “Umbrella Pine” because the needles resemble the ribs of an umbrella. The Umbrella Pine is an ideal tree for much of New England and is commonly seen throughout this area. According to my research, “the tree enjoys moist, acidic, well-drained soil, full to part sun, and a sheltered location” (Milbocker 2011). The plant usually makes about 6 inches of growth per year and can reach up to 120 ft in height. As a slow-growing tree, it also has slow-growing pines, which, when matured, can grow small cones (Shown above in Observation 3) (Milbocker 2011). Overall, in the 4-month observation of the Salve Regina University's Japanese Umbrella Pine, I did not notice any significant changes or growth.

References

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- Carroll, J. (2021, January 5). *Umbrella Pine Information - Learn About Japanese Umbrella Pine Care*. Gardening Know-How. Retrieved April 27, 2022, from <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/trees/umbrella-pine/umbrella-pine-planting.htm>
- Milbocker, J. (2011, February 9). *Japanese Umbrella Pine: A Living Fossil for the Winter Garden — Enchanted Gardens*. Enchanted Gardens. Retrieved April 27, 2022, from <http://www.enchantedgardensdesign.com/blog/2015/2/9/japanese-umbrella-pine-a-living-fossil-for-the-winter-garden>