

## Norfolk Island Pine vs. Cook Pine

A. heterophylla

A. columnaris



The two trees side by side in "Finca de San Jose" - Malaga

Photographes by Dan for [www.tree-species.blogspot.com](http://www.tree-species.blogspot.com)

This is a series of images comparing the *Araucaria heterophylla* (Norfolk Island Pine) and the *Araucaria columnaris* (Cook Pine). I've been studying four different species in the *Araucaria* genus for about three years now. These two in particular are often mistaken one for the other and in fact I did not realize they were two tree species until I started getting a good look at them. The image above is about a half mile from my house on a historic peace of property called the "Finca of San Jose". It used to be a wealthy persons large estate with a mansion but now it is an insane asylum. The original family owned a shiping company and had many exotic species of plants brought back which they planted on their estate. The reason the Cook Pine (on the right) is bent is that the top part of the tree died and a new top formed from below the dead portion. Norfolks are a lot less pointy at the top than Cooks.

A. heterophylla

A. columnaris



Comparison of bark detail

Photographes by Dan for [www.tree-species.blogspot.com](http://www.tree-species.blogspot.com)

The bark is one of the key differences in these two trees. The Cook pine has flaky bark that peels off in small rolls. The Norfolk only has a slight amount of flaking on a much smaller scale.

A. heterophylla

A. columnaris



Comparison of young trees

Photographes by Dan for [www.tree-species.blogspot.com](http://www.tree-species.blogspot.com)

Young Norfolks are much less filled out than Cooks with more distace between the rings of branches. I've also notices that the branches of the cooks have more "leaves" then the Norfolks. Also Cooks almost always have a characteraristic lean and their trunk is often slightly bent. Norfolks on the other hand are very straight and upright.

A. heterophylla

A. columnaris



Comparison of bark and branches

Photographes by Dan for [www.tree-species.blogspot.com](http://www.tree-species.blogspot.com)

I've noticed that the branches of the Cooks slope down and then curl up on the ends. The Norfolk tend to be straight out or sloped slightly up. The branches of the Norfolk also tend to be a lot longer than the Cooks (see the top image).

A. heterophylla



Mature tree

A. Columnaris



Mature tree

The image above shows the characteristic lean of the Cook pine.

I've seen similar female cones on both of these trees but much more frequently on the Norfolks.

I recently came across the image below at...

<http://merricks-merricks.blogspot.com/2007/12/norfolk-island-pine-in-bloom.html>

The author had it listed as a Norfolk Pine. It looks to me more like a Cook pine however as I have seen these same "blossoms" on other Cooks.



Araucaria Columnaris.

Below is a picture that I took from a

