



N.S.W. Association of Agriculture Teachers Inc



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(Photo Front Cover: Sugar Pines by Alex Green)

FORESTS NSW

BAGO STATE FOREST

&

THE SENIC FOREST WALK

(The Sugar Pines are located at Laurel Hill in the Bago State Forest,
30km south of Batlow in the South West Slopes)

Sugar pine (*Pinus lambertiana*) is a native to the west coast of the USA, including the famed Yosemite Park.

Called “the most princely of the genus” by its discoverer, David Douglas, sugar pine is the tallest and largest of all pines. In October 1826 he wrote “I shall here state the dimensions of the largest I could find among several that had been blown down by the wind. At 3 feet from the ground its circumference is 57 feet 9 inches (560cm diameter)... the extreme length 245 feet (75m)

It has been suggested that in a natural forest some specimens may grow as old as 800 years of age.

John Muir in his book ‘The Mountains of California’ wrote in 1894: “The sugar, from which the common name is derived, is to my taste the best of sweets – better than maple sugar. It exudes from the heartwood, where wounds have been made, either by forest fires, or the axe, in the shape of irregular, crisp, candy-like kernels, which are crowded together in masses of considerable size, like clusters of resin-beads...Indians are fond of it, but an account of its laxative properties only small quantities may be eaten.”

Sugar pine is a major timber species on the west coast of the USA. The wood is light, resists shrinkage, warp, and twist, and is preferred for moulding, window and doorframes, window sashes, doors, and other special products such as piano keys and organ pipes.

The plantation at Bago State Forest is 2.4 hectares and was planted in 1928. It has been reserved because of the size and grandeur of these magnificent trees.

There are 85,000 hectares of public pine in this region.
