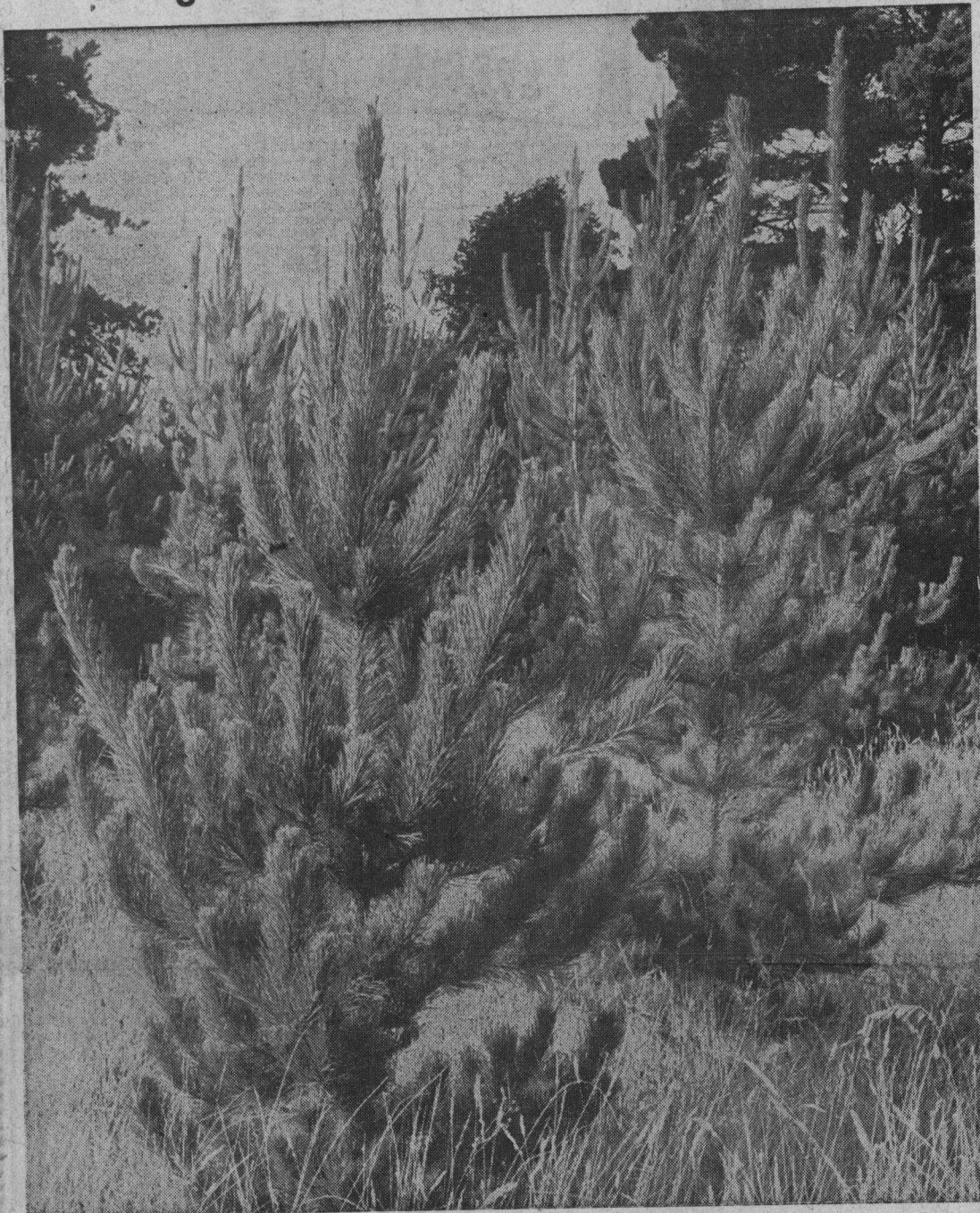


Trees

Monterey Pine Is Native Of Monterey County But Grows Almost Anywhere In World

Young Trees Are Used In Ornamental Landscaping



(Editor's note: This is another in a series of articles about varieties of trees found in the Santa Cruz area.)

By Wally Trabing

The Monterey Pine, a native of our neighboring county, has been introduced practically around the world. And, ironically, it has been reported to grow better away from its native stamping grounds.

Along the Pacific coast it is grown in scattered lots from Pescadero to San Luis Obispo and on Guadalupe Island in Mexico.

They were introduced in Santa Cruz county many years ago, says Henry Washburn, county agricultural advisor. The young trees are densely needled along the limbs. The older trees have ridged furrows along the trunks. They grow to heights of from 60 to 100 feet.

During the days of the Spanish in California, there were great groves of this pine in the Monterey mountains and along the beaches. In land clearing projects, these trees were set afire and let burn unchecked. They have been attacked by lumbering operations up to as late as 1946 when three million feet were cut. Much of Carmel is built of Monterey pine.

When Australia went "timber dry," lumber experts came to the U. S. seeking a good timber tree. They found the Monterey pine and took trees back with them. This pine became the principal lumber tree for that continent.

Fossils of the Monterey pine have been found in the La Brea tar pits in Los Angeles.

The foggy and wet sea air around the peninsula has contorted the tree and dwarfed its growth. That's the reason it grows more vigorously when taken away from the sea.

During its first 50 years it has a fast growth.

It is said that Robert Louis Stevenson used the forest area and Monterey pine trees around the peninsula as the setting for "Treasure Island." He visited the area for some time in 1879.

These are young Monterey