

PINES IN THE DELIBLATO SANDS: ECOLOGICAL LESSONS

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Abstract: *In the Deliblato Sands Austrian pine (*Pinus nigra* Arnold) and Scots pine (*P. sylvestris* L.) are present. These species mainly constitute single species plantations which are very endangered by fires. The greatest fires in this area were recorded in 1973, 1990, 1996 and 2007. In this stand type, rapid spread of diseases and pests is also the problem. In the Deliblato Sands such stands should be avoided, especially on large areas. The pines should be mixed with deciduous species, and prime consideration should be given to habitat conditions. Deciduous species that are autochthonous in this area (limes and oaks) should be favoured.*

Key words: *the Deliblato Sands, Austrian pine, Scots pine, forest fires, afforestation*