

Needle Evergreen Trees

Care

Needle evergreen trees are a great way to bring year-round interest, structure, and screening to your landscape. Planting and caring for these trees require a considerable investment of time and money; it is important to make the right decisions when choosing and caring for these plants so you can enjoy them for years to come. **Remember:** the larger the plant you begin with, the longer it takes to establish therefore the more time, money, and care will be required.

Light – most needle evergreen trees require ample sunlight (6+ hours). If you have an area that receives less than 6 hours of sunlight, your choices become limited.

Wind Exposure – Are you trying to create a wind block? Do you live at higher elevations that experience stronger winds? If so, this will be an important factor when making a selection. Exposed evergreens will be more susceptible to cold and drought than ones in more sheltered locations.

Soil/Drainage – Different types of soils differ in their ability to hold moisture. Heavier clay soils tend to hold moisture and may even be poorly drained, whereas more sandy soils tend to hold less moisture and can be quite dry. It is also important to note the amount of soil compaction, as this will affect how much oxygen and space is available for root growth.

Space/Size – Many evergreen trees get quite large, even if you plan on starting with small, young trees it is important to take into account their ultimate size at maturity. Not only will this be important for maintenance down the road but also plant growth may be impeded by surrounding structures or lack of space. Attention to overhead wires should be considered in site selection.

Deer – most of us live in an area that is heavily populated with deer. During the winter months food becomes scarcer and deer will eat almost anything. Since evergreens retain their foliage throughout the winter months this makes them more susceptible to deer browse. If you are in an area that is heavily populated by deer, make sure to choose varieties that are less preferred.

Mulching

Evergreens grown in nature are mulched by their own needles and other forest debris. In order to grow healthy evergreens, it is important to re-create these conditions. Mulch has a number of benefits including conserving soil moisture, reducing soil temperature extremes, suppressing weeds, and adding organic matter to the soil.



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Types

Below, you will find varieties of needle ever greens we usually stock every year. There are some cultivars derived from these trees that will have different sizing. Ask one of our nursery staff for more information.

Plant	Height	Spread	Sunlight (hours)	Browse Risk	Wind Tolerance	Notes
Concolor Fir	30-50'	15-30'	4+	Low	High	Soft, beautiful, blue-green foliage. Excellent growth habit. Nice citrus scent.
Chinese Juniper	Varies	Varies	4+	Low	High	Size and shape may depend on the individual cultivar.
Eastern Red Cedar	Varies	Varies	4+	Low	High	Size and shape may depend on the individual cultivar.
Norway Spruce	40-60'	25-30'	4+	Low	High	Dark green, pendulous branches with maturity.
White Spruce	40-60'	10-20'	4+	Low	High	Tolerant of heat, cold, salt, and drought. Excellent broad pyramidal shape, with short blue-green needles. Great for wet sites.
Black Hills Spruce	20-40'	10-20'	4+	Low	High	Compact, dense, conical shape. Small, blue-green needles. Excellent choice for a smaller landscape.
Serbian Spruce	50-60'	10-20'	4+	Low	Medium	Gorgeous two toned blue-green needles. Takes on a slender, graceful habit with somewhat drooping/arched branches.
Blue Spruce	30-60'	10-20'	6+	Low	High	Excellent blue foliage. Stiff, sharp needles (great in areas w/deer). Nice pyramidal form. Great for urban sites.
Eastern White Pine	50-70'	20-40'	4+	Moderate	Moderate	Very ornamental. Loses its lower limbs with age. Nice, long, soft needles.
Douglas Fir	30-70'	12-20'	4+	Moderate	Low	Beautiful specimen, nice shape. Blue-green needles.
'Emerald Green' Arborvitae	10-15'	3-4'	4+	High	Moderate	Excellent small space specimen. Often used for hedges and screens. Nice light green color.
'Green Giant' Arborvitae	30-40'	15-25'	4+	Moderate	Moderate	Extremely beautiful specimen. Used for in formal hedges and screens. Excellent as a single planting. Dark green foliage turning slight yellow-orange during winter months.
Canadian Hemlock	40-60'	20-35'	2+	Moderate	Low	Graceful habit. Short needles, with a nice green color. Does not do well with drought or wind.



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