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EC65-1209 Evergreen Trees and Shrubs

Wayne Whitney

Clark Jensen

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This list of evergreen trees and shrubs has been prepared to help you select kinds of ornamentals that are reasonably certain to succeed in your area. The regions for which they are recommended are given with each kind. The extent of each region is shown on the map on this page.

Although many plants may be found growing outside their recommended areas, their success in such places is generally due to exceptionally favorable sites or superior care.

The average grower should confine his main plantings to species that are known to be adapted. It is always interesting to try new things, but try new plants in a small way and expect the worst until they prove themselves to be adapted. Many of the plants listed required good care, including supplemental water, in order to thrive.

The zones shown on the map indicate large areas in which certain groups of trees and shrubs may be planted with reasonable assurance of success. These large zones differ in temperature, rainfall, elevation, or soil type. Within all zones there are small local areas where environmental conditions may be more severe or more favorable than average. These small areas may differ from their surrounding zones in soil type, fertility, moisture supply or exposure.
Variations in forms of evergreens

(A) tall-growing paramidal  (D) globe
(B) medium-sized paramidal  (E) spreading
(C) Columnar  (F) prostrate

CONIFEROUS EVERGREENS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Recommended for regions</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fir</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Douglas (<em>Pseudotsuga menziesii</em>)</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4, 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 feet (A)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rapid growing, retains lower limbs in old age. Foliage dark green or soft blue. Not a true fir.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Concolor (<em>Abies concolor</em>)</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4, 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 feet (A)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balsam (<em>Abies balsamea</em>)</td>
<td>2, 4, 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 feet (A)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Needles fragrant, shiny, bright green. Short lived except in cool, moist locations.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hemlock - (<em>Tsuga canadensis</em>)</td>
<td>1, 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 feet (A)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seldom over 25 feet under cultivation. Regular conical form, slow growing except in cool, moist locations.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
All varieties hardy in Nebraska. Regardless of ultimate height listed, they can all be trimmed and kept small for many years.

Upright forms:

**J. virginiana varieties**  
(Red-Cedar) 75 feet  
(A, B)

Large trees with green foliage. Chlorosis resistant.

**J. scopulorum varieties**  
(Colorado Red-Cedar) 30 feet  
(A, B)

Most have a conical shape and silver foliage.

**J. Chinensis varieties**  
20 feet  
(B, C)

Foliage light green with slight bluish cast. Form varies from broad and bushy to very narrow and upright.

Bush forms:

**Pfitzer (J. chinensis pfitzeriana)** 6 feet  
(E)

Spreading plants with green or slightly bluish foliage. Used principally in foundation plantings. Several similar varieties.
Limber (*Pinus flexilis*) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
30 feet

Clusters of dark green needles twist different directions. Branches are extremely flexible.

Scotch (*Pinus sylvestris*) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
50 feet

Tops of older trees often become flat and irregular. Bark is cinnamon colored.

Pinyon (*Pinus edulis*) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
30 feet

Slow growing, produces edible seeds.

Mugho (*Pinus mugo* varieties *muchus*) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
4 feet

Dwarf pine, round topped. Used extensively in foundations plantings.

White (*Pinus strobus*) 1, 2
75 feet

Rapid growing, straight trunked. Soft, pale green needles. Grown as a specimen tree.
Spruce. All kinds have a pyramidal type of growth.

Colorado (Picea pungens & varieties) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
60 feet

Horticultural varieties are prized for their bright blue color. Used mostly as specimen trees.

Black Hills (Picea glauca varieties glauca) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
60 feet

Very symmetrical tree, foliage green to bluish. Used for specimen trees. Slow growing.

Norway (Picea abies) 1, 2
75 feet

Dark, somber green color. Branches on older trees quite drooping.

Yew - Plant all varieties in a location protected from the south or west. All have very dark green foliage.

Capitata (Taxus cuspidata capitata) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
25 feet

Upright with a single stem.
Cuspidata (Taxus cuspidata)
10 feet

Low, spreading bush type.

Hicks (Taxus media hicksi)
15 feet

Many upright-growing branches make a rather columnar plant.

Browns (Taxus madia browni)
10 feet

Rather vase-shaped, but ordinarily kept trimmed in a globe form.

BROADLEAF EVERGREEN SHRUBS

Species

Euonymus

E. Patens (Spreading Euonymus)
5 feet

An erect-growing shrub. Leaves may turn brown before spring. May be hardy over a wider area.
E. radicans (Common Wintercreeper)
4 feet
A vine with rose-red berries. Grown as a shrub by keeping it trimmed back and allowing it to pile up.

E. radicans vegetus (Bigleaf Wintercreeper)
Similar to E. Radicans but has larger leaves.

Mahonia - Hollygrape

M. aquifolium (Oregon Hollygraphe)
4 feet
Leaves shiny, leathery and sping-toothed. Mature leaves turn red in the autumn. Fruit is purple-black.

Pryacantha (Var. Kasan)

An excellent broadleaf evergreen shrub with clusters of yellow-to-orange berries in the fall. Variety Kasan seem best in this area. Holds leaves all winter. Leaves will turn reddish-to-brown in winter here. Excellent in full sun.