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Juniperus virginiana

Bloom Color Green and yellow
The flowers are showy.

Leaf Color Green

Fall Color No change in fall color
This plant has fragrant foliage.

Fruit Color Blue and purple
The fruit is fleshy, cone shaped and round.

Environment

This plant tolerates drought and salt well.
This plant will grow in very dry soil.
Suitable soil is well-drained/loamy, sandy or clay.
The pH preference is an acidic to alkaline (less than 6.8 to more than 7.7) soil.

Landscape Uses

- Seashore planting
- Screen
- Street tree
- Specimen

Attributes and Features

- Attracts birds
- Attracts butterflies
- Christmas tree
- Persistent fruit
- Attractive fruit
- Fruit is edible by birds
- Fruit can be a litter problem
- Ozone tolerant

Juniperus virginiana

Eastern Red Cedar, Silver Cedar, Burk
Eastern Red Cedar, Silver Eastern Red
Cedar

Cupressaceae (Cypress)

Nomenclature: Royal Hort. Society

Type	Tree, woody plant
Hardy range	3B to 9A
Height	25' to 50' / 7.60m to 15.20m
Spread	15' to 25' / 4.60m to 7.60m
Growth rate	Fast
Form	Columnar, oval and pyramidal
Exposure	Partial shade or partial sun to full sun
Persistence	Evergreen

Native Habitat

Eastern North America from Ontario south to extreme north Florida in regions receiving 15 to 60 inches annual rainfall. Adapted to many soil types from dry rocky sites to the borders of wet swampy land with pH from 4.7 to 7.8. Not suited for saturated soils. Common on old abandoned fields and along fence rows.

Additional Notes

This plant is best when trained to a dominant trunk.
This plant is very flammable.
National champion is 57 x 69 feet in Georgia.

Culture Notes

Planted in full sun or partial shade, Eastern Red Cedar will easily grow on a variety of soils, including clay, but will not do well on soils kept continually moist. It is long-lived with one of the oldest trees, in Wisconsin, more than 1,200 years old. There is a stump in the Montreal Botanical Garden from a 375 year old tree. Growth may be poor in landscapes which are over-irrigated.

Plants are difficult to transplant due to a coarse root system, except when quite small. Larger plants can be transplanted if they are root pruned prior to moving them. Water until well-established and then, except for pruning, forget about the tree. It performs admirably with no care, even on alkaline soil and along the coast. Trees often grow on limestone soil in their native habitat.

Natural habitat is dry and windy with full sun exposure. It looks best in an open site with no shade during the day. This allows the foliage to dry quickly in the morning and helps prevent foliage disease from thinning the canopy. A

well-drained soil is essential for good growth. Wet soil rots the roots and causes plant decline.

There may be local restrictions on planting this tree near apple orchards because it is the alternate host for cedar-apple rust. Pruning to a single leader helps prevent breakage in ice storms and other storms. Do this by removing leaders that compete with the one you have chosen to become the main leader.

Male trees generate copious amounts of pollen which cause significant allergy problems for many people; female trees produce fruit but no pollen. Female cultivars include: 'Canaertii', 'Chamberlaynii', 'Pendula Chamberlaynii', and 'Pendula Viridis'; male cultivars include 'Burkii', 'Cupressifolia', 'Filifera', 'Hillspire', 'Prostrata Silver', 'Silver', and 'Tripartita'.

I (*Dr. Gilman*) have not been able to figure out why we have not embraced this versatile tree more in American landscapes. Why search off the continent for ornamental and environmentally friendly plants when we have a great one right here at home. There are many opportunities to select outstanding cultivars or use the ones we already have.

This tree makes a wonderful street tree and has performed well in this role in some communities, especially along the coast.

Plants serve as hosts for swedner's hairstreak (*Mitoura gryneus swedneri*) butterfly larvae. The fruit is eaten by robins, bluebirds, cedar waxwings and mockingbirds, among others.

Pests, Diseases and Damaging Agents

Pests: Bagworms, Juniper scale, Juniper webworm and mites. Formosan termites can feed on live, healthy trees.

Diseases: Twig blight is the most serious disease. Kabatina blight can be devastating on all junipers, especially noticeable in spring. Rust diseases can also cause swellings in twigs and some branch death. *Cytospora* canker infects a branch then eventually kills it.

