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Conifers



Common Name	American Arborvitae	'Emerald Green' Arborvitae	'Green Giant' Arborvitae	Balsam Fir	Concolor Fir	Douglas Fir	Frasier Fir
Species	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i> 'Smaragd'	<i>Thuja plicata</i> 'Standishii'	<i>Abies balsamea</i>	<i>Abies concolor</i>	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	<i>Abies frazeri</i>
Growth Rate	1-2' per year	1-2' per year	2-3' per year	6-12" per year	10-18" per year	1-2' per year	8-12" per year
Mature Size	H 30-40', W 10-15'	H 10-15', W 3-4'	H 30-40', W 12-18'	H 40-60', W 15-25'	H 30-50', W 15-25'	H 40-80', W 12-20'	H 40-60', W 25-35'
Shape	Densely pyramidal, graceful branches	Narrowly upright, conical, pyramidal	Upright, conical, pyramidal	Mounded, pyramidal, dense	Pyramidal, dense, horizontal branching	Pyramidal, upright	Narrow, pyramidal, spire-like crown
Needles	Dark Green ¼"-1", scale-like, flat, fan shaped	Dark green, scale like, fan shaped, 1"	Dark green, scale like, flat, fan shaped	Dark Green, flat, ½ - 1", silvery-white underside	Short, flat, soft, silvery blue green on both top and bottom	Bright green to blue green, soft, flat 1 - 1 ½" long	Bright green
Cones	Small, oblong, upright, appear in bunches near the end of branches	Small, light brown, inconspicuous	Small, upright, light brown, ½"	Oblong, upright, 2-4", purple when young	Oblong, upright	Up to 4" long near top of tree	2-2 ½" long, produces many early in life cycle
Soil Type	Average to moist, well-drained soil	Average to moist, well-drained soil	Average to moist, well-drained; tolerates clay and wet sites	Acidic, moist, well-drained; tolerates wet sites	Loamy, sandy	Moist, well-drained	Moist, Loamy, sandy
Sunlight	Full Sun - Part Shade	Full Sun - Part Shade	Full Sun - Part Shade	Full Sun - Part Sun	Full Sun - Part Sun	Full Sun - Part Sun	Full Sun - Part Sun
USDA Zone	Zones 2-7	Zones 3-7	Zones 5-7	Zones 3-5	Zones 3-7	Zones 4-6	Zones 3-7
Wind Resistance	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Low	High	High	Low
Adaptability	Adapts to a wide variety of soil	Adapts to a wide variety of soil	Adapts to a wide variety of soil	Adapts to a wide variety of soil	Moderately resistant to heat & drought	Moderately resistant to heat & drought	Moderately resistant to heat & drought
Wildlife Value	Provides shelter and nesting sites for birds and small mammals	Provides shelter and nesting sites for birds and small mammals	Provides shelter and nesting sites for birds and small mammals	Provides shelter and nesting sites for birds and small mammals	Provides shelter and nesting sites for birds and small mammals; seeds provide food source for small mammals and birds	Provides shelter and nesting sites for birds and small mammals	Provides shelter and nesting sites for birds and small mammals
Uses	Privacy screens, windbreaks, ornamental plantings	Border, hedge, privacy screen, windbreak	Privacy screens, windbreaks, ornamental plantings	Ornamental/specimen planting, often used as Christmas tree	Ornamental planting, windbreaks, popular Christmas tree choice	Popular tree for lumber	Popular Christmas tree option