

While most conifers prefer sun, there are some that will tolerate and even thrive in some shade. All conifers prefer a well-drained, somewhat organic soil and consistent water when first planted. Most are reasonably drought tolerant once established.

**Calocedrus decurrens—INCENSE CEDAR.** Dappled sun to light shade. Large symmetrical tree to 60+ feet. Hardy to -20°F. Reddish bark. Bright green foliage, fragrant (especially when bruised). Makes a good screen.

**Cephalotaxus species—PLUM YEW.** Light to partial shade. Varieties can be low and spreading or upright and narrow. Hardy to -5°F. Foliage is yew-like but larger and brighter green.

**Chamaecyparis lawsoniana—PORT ORFORD CEDAR.** Dappled sun to filtered shade. Many forms, most pyramidal and compact. Many true dwarf. Hardy to -10°F. Colors range from blue green to steel blue, with some variegated and golden forms. All need excellent drainage and make great container plants.

**Chamaecyparis obtusa—HINOKI CYPRESS.** Dappled sun to filtered shade. Many varieties—from dwarf forms under 2 feet to taller varieties reaching 20+ feet. Hardy to -20°F. All Hinokis are slow to moderate growers with attractive architectural foliage and structure. Golden and variegated forms are especially suited to a shadier site.

**Chamaecyparis pisifera--SAWARA CYPRESS.** Filtered sun to partial shade. Hardy to -20°F. All Slow to moderate growers. Golden and variegated varieties tend to get brown in hot sun. **'Boulevard'** is a bright blue-green that gets 6-8 feet tall and wide. **'Filifera'** and its varieties ("thread leaf cypress") have soft, thread-like foliage that drapes elegantly.

**Cryptomeria japonica—JAPANESE WHITE CEDAR.** Light shade. Hardy to -10°F. Several dwarf cultivars like **'Snow'** benefit from light shade. **'Sekkan Sugi'** is an upright yellow form that performs best in light shade. **'Elegans'** will tolerate some shade but will color up more richly in sun.

**Cunninghamia lanceolata—CHINA FIR.** Light to part shade. Medium growing conifer to about 30 feet. Hardy to -10°F. Good winter color. Best in shade.

**Larix species--LARCH.** Light shade. Various species available—medium to fast growing **deciduous** conifer to 30+ feet. Some weeping and dwarf varieties available. Hardy to -30°F. Soft, bright green tufts of needles with great yellow to bronze fall color. Interesting persistent cones.

**Metasequoia glyptostroboides—DAWN REDWOOD.** Light shade. Fast growing to 60+ feet. Hardy to 0°F. Another **deciduous** conifer, thought to be extinct until the 1940's. Soft green leaflets like Coast Redwood in summer, turning deep golden bronze in fall. Great bark. The golden forms **'Gold Rush'** and **'Jack Frost'** do best in light shade but will lose their color if the shade is too deep.

**Podocarpus macrophyllus—YEW PINE.** Light to filtered shade. Many varieties, generally narrow and upright. Hardiness varies—check tags.

**Pseudotsuga menziesii—DOUGLAS FIR.** Light to partial shade. Medium growing tree to 100+ feet. Hardy to -30°F. One of our native conifers, Doug fir has bright green to blue green foliage and pendant cones.

**Sequoia sempervirens—COAST REDWOOD.** Light to filtered shade. Fast growing to 90+ feet. Hardy to 0°F. Large tree with flat needle leaflets. Coast redwoods are among the tallest trees in the world in the wild—some are over 350 feet. Foliage can be bright green to lustrous blue green. There are dwarf and weeping varieties now available.

**Taxus species--YEW.** Light to nearly full shade. Several species of evergreen shrubs and trees, variable in habit from low and spreading to narrow and columnar. Hardy to -10°F. Yews are characterized by flat green needles and a “cone” consisting of a single seeded berrylike (usually red) structure. The poisonous “berries” are produced only on female plants (a male plant need not be nearby). Yews take pruning extremely well and make a great hedge.

**Thuja species—ARBORVITAE, WESTERN RED CEDAR.** Light to moderate shade. Probably the most variable genus of conifers, ranging from dwarves not much more than 2 feet to *Thuja plicata* (our native Western Red Cedar) which can grow over 70 feet. Hardy to -20°F. Foliage is flat and scale like. Color varies from bright yellow green to dark lustrous green. There are many variegated forms. Takes pruning well. Makes a great hedge.

**Thujopsis dolabrata—DEERHORN CEDAR.** Light to partial shade. Large tree to 30-50 feet. Hardy to 0°F. Foliage is like arborvitae (*Thuja*) but plumper, with a bright, glossy green color. Shape of foliage resembles antlers.

**Tsuga canadensis—CANADIAN HEMLOCK.** Light to partial shade. Some shrubby with graceful, drooping ends, some weeping; species form is tall and narrow, often multi-trunked, reaching 50+ feet. Hardy to -30°F. Dark green foliage; many varieties have striking new growth.

**Tsuga heterophylla--WESTERN HEMLOCK.** Light to partial shade. Large, narrow conifer to 70 feet tall, 20 feet wide. Hardy to -30°F. Native plant with dark green to yellowish green, fernlike foliage. Not often available in the nursery.

**Tsuga mertensiana--MOUNTAIN HEMLOCK.** Light to partial shade. Small to medium sized tree to 20+ feet. Hardy to -30°F. Blue green foliage, often with a gnarled, twisted trunk—especially if field collected. A good substitute for Alpine Fir.