



Juniperus virginiana

Eastern Redcedar

Tried and True
Native Plant Selections
for the Mid-Atlantic

Eastern Redcedar's dense foliage provides excellent roosting/nesting cover for birds; and wildlife favor its fruit. This long-lived juniper, which is native to eastern North America,* was prized by Virginia colonists for its wood. Today, its wood lines closets and chests; its oils are distilled for use in fragrances; and its fruit gives gin its characteristic flavor.



| Tree | Male/Female Flowers, Foliage, Fruit, Tree, Bark |
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| Height: 30–60 feet |  |
| Spread: 8–25 feet | |
| Bloom Color: Yellow or Blue | |
| Characteristics | |
| Conical to columnar, evergreen conifer with horizontal branching; usually dioecious |  |
| Foliage scale-like on mature twigs, prickly awl-like on young twigs (gray/blue/green may bronze in winter) | |
| Yellow-brown (male) or frosted blue-green (female) flower cones (strobili) at branch tips March to May | |
| Pale green turning dark blue, glaucous , berry-like, seed cones** July to March on female plants | |
| Stem often fluted ; shredding, grayish, scented bark | |
| Attributes | |
| Tolerates most soil types, drought, heat, wind, salt, air pollution, and Black Walnut; no serious pests or diseases; deer seldom severely damage except for mature trees when food is scarce | |
| Winter interest; ethnobotanic uses | |
| Provides food and shelter for small mammals and birds; larval host to ~31 lepidopterans incl. Olive Hairstreak, Pine Elf, and Imperial Moth | |
| Growing and Maintenance Tips | |
| Soil Requirements : Average, well-drained | Excellent Replacement for Bambusa , Phyllostachys , Pseudosasa - Bamboo |
| Light Requirements : Sun | <i>Juniperus chinensis</i> - Chinese Juniper |
| Water Requirements : Dry, Moist | <i>Taxus cuspidata</i> - Japanese Yew |
| To deter cedar-apple,-hawthorn,-quince rusts don't grow near alternate hosts, e.g., apple, serviceberry | |
| Use as a specimen, tall hedge, or windbreak or in rain gardens larger than 150 square feet | *In the Mid-Atlantic Region, it is native to DC and in all parts of PA except the northwest. It is common in DE, MD, and throughout VA except at the higher mountain elevations. |
| Hardiness : USDA Zones 2a-9b | **Fruits may be harmful if eaten. |
| <i>developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria</i> | |

Images by Elaine Mills, Native Plant Garden, The Nature Conservancy; private garden, Arlington; and Glencarlyn Garden



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