

Large Trees & Shrubs
Evergreen

Map #1

Arborvitae
(*Thuja occidentalis*)
Family: Cupressaceae



Leaves: scale-like (no juvenile (awl)) needles, abruptly pointed, in very flat laterally compressed branchlets borne horizontally, dark green, thick, waxy looking, glandular; winter color bronze green.

Buds: alternate.

Stems: compressed flat sprays of needles.

Bark: young - reddish brown, mature – silvery exfoliating.

Flowers: male and female on same plant; terminal, solitary, male yellow, female rounded.

Fruits: cones, oblong, 1/3 – 1/2 " long; yellow and erect when young, brown and pendant when mature.

Habit: dense broad pyramid, but many cultivars provide many habits and foliage colors.

Culture: A very adaptable species, tolerant of acid or alkaline conditions and wet to average dry sites in full sun to partial shade. It can tolerate some drought once well-established. This species will retain its lower branches with old age. Snow and ice loads can cause a permanent bending of the leader or leaders, often resulting in the need for plant removal. This problem is most acute on the cultivars with multiple leaders. Once a plant is so damaged, it is virtually impossible to return the leader to straight growth. Avoid shearing tree forms when young as this encourages multiple trunk formation. Competing leaders can be successfully removed when plants are still young.

Cultivars:

'Techny' - about 15' with a dense wide conical form and dark green foliage winter and summer. This cultivar also goes by the name 'Mission', as it was discovered in Mission Gardens in Techny, Illinois.

'Woodwardii' - An old but common selection with a rounded to broad-rounded habit that matures at 8-10' and tends to break open with age and browns slightly in winter.

'Wintergreen' - Selected for its dark green winter coloration, it also features a narrow conical habit and a fast growth rate. It is also sold as 'Hetz Wintergreen'.

'Sunkist' - A medium to large broad conical shrub with bright yellow branchlet tips.

'Nigra' - Selected for its very dark green coloration, it has a conical habit and mature size of 20-30'.

'Holmstrup' - A very nice compact narrow pyramidal selection with branchlets borne vertically that slowly grows to a height of only 5 to 10'.

'Hetz Midget' - A common dwarf globe form that becomes broad-rounded with a height of 3-4'.

Miscellaneous: The name arbor-vitae means tree of life, referring to the native American's use of boiled leaves and stems to cure scurvy. White cedar refers to the light-colored aromatic wood. The native Americans used the wood for ribs in their birch-bark canoes and early settlers used the highly rot resistant wood for shingles.



'Nigra'



'Techny'



'Hetz Wintergreen'



'Holmstrup'



'Woodwardii'



'Pyramidalis'



'Sunkist'



'Rheingold'

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