

Arborvitae

Thuja is the genus and there are 5 main species of Arborvitae. The two species that are best for our area are “occidentalis” with common names of Eastern Arborvitae, American Arborvitae and Eastern White Cedar, and “plicata” with common name of Western Red Cedar. Of these two there are many “varieties,” listed below.

Example: Emerald Green Arborvitae is Thuja Occidentalis “Emerald Green.” (Genus Species “variety”)

Occidentalis:	Height	Spread	Distance apart
Brabant	12-15'	3-4'	3-4'
Dark Green	18-20'	6-10'	5-8'
DeGroot	15-20'	4-6'	2-3'
Emerald Green	15-18'	3-4'	2.5-3'
Mission	10-15'	6-10'	4-8'
Wintergreen	20-30'	5-10'	4-8'
Yellow Ribbon	8-10'	2-3'	2-3'
Bowling Ball	2-3'	2-3'	
Danica	2-3'	2-3'	
Fire Chief	3-4'	3-4'	
Little Giant	3-4'	3-4'	
Woodward	3-5'	3-5'	

Plicata:	Height	Spread	Distance apart
Green Giant	40-60'	12-18'	5-10'
Whipcord	3-5'	3-5'	

All arborvitaes prefer full sun to part shade. They can take full shade but will grow less full and varieties that show color will be green. Water 1” a week when established, twice a week when first planted for a few weeks. They can be used for foundation planting, privacy hedge, accent. Insects that can affect them are bagworms, spider mites, and scale. Diseases that can affect are tip blight, canker, root rot. Environmental issues are main concern, too much or too little water, dehydrating winter winds, snow accumulation. All issues can be controlled by planting with compost or mulch covering, in a sunny to part sun location, protected by winter winds, in a well-drained soil.