INTRODUCTION

This silver-blue foliaged cultivar is a handsome evergreen for specimen planting where it will not be crowded since the tree looks its best when branches are left on the tree to the ground (Fig. 1). This shows off the wonderful pyramidal form with lower branches spreading about half the height. It reaches 40 to 60 or more feet tall and 30 to 40 feet wide. The trunk stays fairly straight with lateral branches nearly horizontal. Allow plenty of room for these to spread. They are best located as a lawn specimen away from walks, streets, and sidewalks so branches will not have to be pruned. The trees are much too large for most residential properties. It looks odd if lower branches are removed. Older trees become flat-topped and are a beautiful sight to behold.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Scientific name: Cedrus atlantica ‘Argentea’
Pronunciation: SEE-drus at-LAN-tih-kuh
Common name(s): Silver Atlas Cedar
Family: Pinaceae
USDA hardness zones: 6 through 8 (Fig. 2)
Origin: not native to North America
Uses: Bonsai; specimen
Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the tree

DESCRIPTION

Height: 40 to 60 feet
Spread: 35 to 50 feet
Crown uniformity: irregular outline or silhouette
Cedrus atlantica ‘Argentea’ -- Silver Atlas Cedar

**Crown shape:** pyramidal  
**Crown density:** moderate  
**Growth rate:** medium  
**Texture:** fine

**Foliage**
- **Leaf arrangement:** spiral (Fig. 3)  
- **Leaf type:** simple  
- **Leaf margin:** entire  
- **Leaf shape:** needle-like (filiform)  
- **Leaf venation:** parallel  
- **Leaf type and persistence:** evergreen; needle leaf evergreen  
- **Leaf blade length:** less than 2 inches  
- **Leaf color:** silver  
- **Fall color:** no fall color change  
- **Fall characteristic:** not showy

**Fruit**
- **Fruit shape:** oval  
- **Fruit length:** 3 to 6 inches  
- **Fruit covering:** dry or hard  
- **Fruit color:** brown  
- **Fruit characteristics:** does not attract wildlife; no significant litter problem; showy

**Trunk and Branches**
- **Trunk/bark/branches:** droop as the tree grows, and will require pruning for vehicular or pedestrian clearance beneath the canopy; not particularly showy; should be grown with a single leader; no thorns  
- **Pruning requirement:** needs little pruning to develop a strong structure  
- **Breakage:** resistant  
- **Current year twig color:** brown; green  
- **Current year twig thickness:** medium

**Culture**
- **Light requirement:** tree grows in part shade/part sun; tree grows in full sun
Pests

Generally free of insect pests and resistant to diseases, they may occasionally fall prey to tip blight, root rots or black scale and the Deodar weevil. Usually no pest protection or control is necessary.

Sap-suckers are attracted to the trunk and often riddle it with small holes. This usually does little lasting harm to the tree.

**Soil tolerances:** clay; loam; sand; slightly alkaline; acidic; well-drained

**Drought tolerance:** high

**Aerosol salt tolerance:** moderate

**Other**

**Roots:** surface roots are usually not a problem

**Winter interest:** no special winter interest

**Outstanding tree:** tree has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more

**Invasive potential:** little, if any, potential at this time

**Verticillium wilt susceptibility:** not known to be susceptible

**Pest resistance:** no pests are normally seen on the tree

**USE AND MANAGEMENT**

Difficult to transplant, it should be moved as a container plant or root-pruned balled-in-burlap. Soil preference is for well-drained deep loam, on the acid side, but it can tolerate sandy or clay soils, if they are well-drained. The tree looks its best when sheltered from strong winds but tolerates open conditions, and will grow in full sun or partial shade. Allow for plenty of soil space around the tree since growth will be poor in restricted soil space. Tolerates extensive drought only when grown in an area where roots can explore a large soil area. Performs well in all areas within its hardiness range. It is suitable in zone 9 in California and perhaps in Florida.

Cultivars: Two other especially desirable cultivars are Cedrus atlantica ‘Pendula’, a weeping form, and Cedrus atlantica ‘Glauca’, having beautiful bluish-white foliage.