**Cedrus atlantica ‘Gluaca Pendula’**
Weeping Atlas Cedar

Edward F. Gilman and Dennis G. Watson

### INTRODUCTION

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 weeping form with lower branches spreading about half the height. Spread, height and tree form is somewhat dependant on how the tree was trained. It can probably reach 30 to 40 feet tall if it was staked. Allow plenty of room for branches to spread. The tree is best located as a lawn specimen away from walks, streets, and sidewalks so branches will not have to be pruned. 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 ‘Gluaca Pendula’  
**Pronunciation:** SEE-drus at-LAN-tih-kuh  
**Common name(s):** Weeping Atlas Cedar  
**Family:** Pinaceae  
**USDA hardiness zones:** 6 through 8 (Fig. 2)  
**Origin:** not native to North America  
**Uses:** Bonsai; specimen  
**Availability:** grown in small quantities by a small number of nurseries

### DESCRIPTION

**Height:** 10 to 15 feet  
**Spread:** 6 to 10 feet  
**Crown uniformity:** irregular outline or silhouette  
**Crown shape:** weeping  
**Crown density:** moderate

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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: blue or blue-green; green
Fall color: no fall color change
Fall characteristic: not showy

Fruit

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: requires pruning to develop 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
Soil tolerances: clay; loam; sand; slightly alkaline; acidic; well-drained
Drought tolerance: high
Aerosol salt tolerance: moderate
Figure 3. Foliage of Weeping Atlas Cedar.

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. 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 it sheltered from strong wind. 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 ‘Argentea’, having beautiful silver-blue foliage.

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.