**Cedrus deodara**  
Deodar Cedar

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**INTRODUCTION**

With its pyramidal shape, soft grayish-green (or blue) needles and drooping branches, this cedar makes a graceful specimen or accent tree (Fig. 1). Growing rapidly to 40 to 50 feet tall and 20 to 30 feet wide, it also works well as a soft screen. The trunk stays fairly straight with lateral branches nearly horizontal and drooping. Lower branches should be left on the tree so the true form of the tree can show. 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. Large specimens have trunks almost three feet in diameter and spread to 50 feet across.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

*Scientific name:* Cedrus deodara  
*Pronunciation:* SEE-drus dee-oh-DAR-uh  
*Common name(s):* Deodar Cedar  
*Family:* Pinaceae  
*USDA hardiness zones:* 7 through 9A (Fig. 2)  
*Origin:* not native to North America  
*Uses:* wide tree lawns (>6 feet wide); recommended for buffer strips around parking lots or for median strip plantings in the highway; screen; specimen; residential street tree  
*Availability:* generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

**DESCRIPTION**

*Height:* 40 to 60 feet  
*Spread:* 20 to 30 feet  
*Crown uniformity:* symmetrical canopy with a regular (or smooth) outline, and individuals have more
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or less identical crown forms
Crown shape: pyramidal
Crown density: moderate
Growth rate: fast
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: green; silver
Fall color: no fall color change
Fall characteristic: not showy

Flower
Flower characteristics: inconspicuous and not showy; spring flowering

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; persistent on the tree; 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 full sun
Soil tolerances: clay; loam; sand; slightly alkaline; acidic; occasionally wet; well-drained

Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.
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: long-term health usually not affected by pests

USE AND MANAGEMENT

The tree has been successfully used as a street or median planting with lower branches removed. It appears to tolerate compacted, poor soil but declines in areas where smog is a problem. Plant on 20-foot-centers to create a canopy of blue foliage over a small residential street. This is probably the best true cedar for the South.

Transplants easily if root-pruned or from a container and protected from sweeping winds. It does well in dry, sunny spots and will tolerate high pH and clay soil. Cold-damaged trees die back at the top.

There are numerous attractive cultivars. ‘Kashmir’ has silvery foliage and is hardy in USDA hardiness zone 6; ‘Aurea’ has yellow leaves (looks ill); ‘Pendula’ has long, drooping leaves; ‘Robusta’ has stiffer twigs.

Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern. Perhaps scales, borers, deodar weevils, and bagworms. Following a cold winter, tops often decline and dieback in USDA hardiness zone 7. Secondary fungi can sometimes be associated with this decline.