

Cryptomeria japonica 'Yoshino' 'Yoshino' Japanese-Cedar¹

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INTRODUCTION

This striking evergreen forms a loose, open, pyramidal shape of somewhat pendulous branches clothed with dense, short, light green to blue/green, fragrant needles (Fig. 1). Trees reach 30 to 40 feet in height by 15 to 20 feet in width, and develop a somewhat oval canopy with age. The trunk remains straight with relatively small-diameter lateral branches. Long branches are spaced just far enough apart to allow the handsome, reddish-brown, peeling bark to be easily seen when standing next to the tree. The short needles may take on a slight bronze hue in winter but will quickly return to green in springtime. The foliage of this cultivar discolors in winter far less than the species.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Scientific name: *Cryptomeria japonica* 'Yoshino'

Pronunciation: krip-toe-MEER-ee-uh
juh-PAWN-ih-kuh

Common name(s): 'Yoshino' Japanese-Cedar

Family: *Taxodiaceae*

USDA hardiness zones: 6 through 8 (Fig. 2)

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: Bonsai; large parking lot islands (> 200 square feet in size); wide tree lawns (>6 feet wide); medium-sized parking lot islands (100-200 square feet in size); medium-sized tree lawns (4-6 feet wide); recommended for buffer strips around parking lots or for median strip plantings in the highway; screen; small parking lot islands (< 100 square feet in size); narrow tree lawns (3-4 feet wide); specimen; tree has been successfully grown in urban areas where air

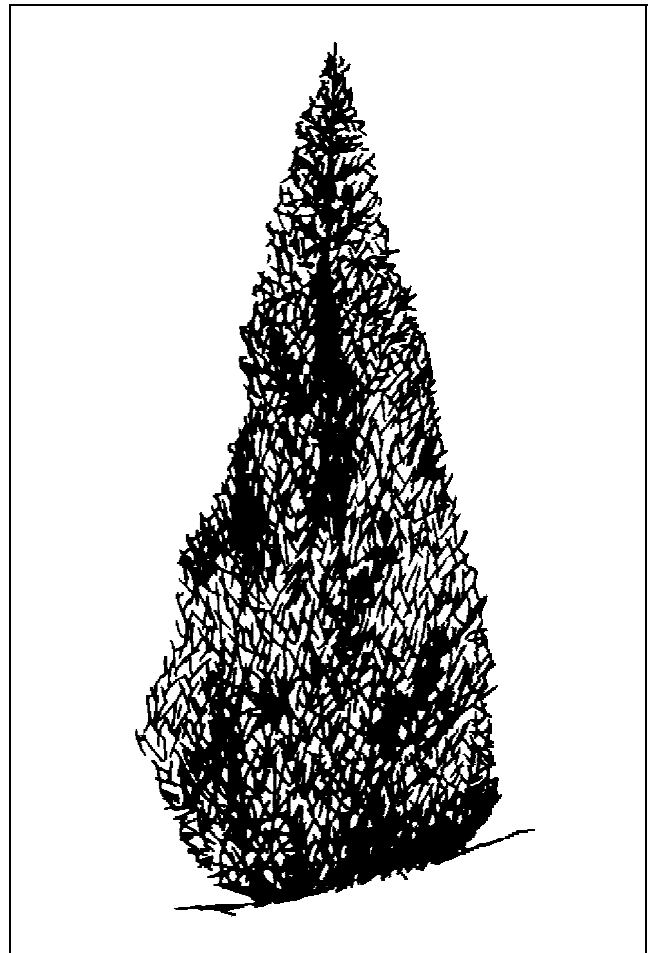


Figure 1. Middle-aged 'Yoshino' Japanese-Cedar.

pollution, poor drainage, compacted soil, and/or drought are common

Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the tree

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

DESCRIPTION

Height: 30 to 40 feet

Spread: 15 to 20 feet

Crown uniformity: symmetrical canopy with a regular (or smooth) outline, and individuals have more or less identical crown forms

Crown shape: pyramidal

Crown density: dense

Growth rate: slow

Texture: fine

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: spiral (Fig. 3)

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: entire

Leaf shape: awl-like

Leaf venation: none, or difficult to see

Leaf type and persistence: evergreen

Leaf blade length: less than 2 inches

Leaf color: green

Fall color: copper

Fall characteristic: not showy

Flower

Flower characteristics: inconspicuous and not showy

Fruit

Fruit shape: round

Fruit length: .5 to 1 inch

Fruit covering: dry or hard

Fruit color: brown

Fruit characteristics: does not attract wildlife; inconspicuous and not showy; no significant litter problem

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: droop as the tree grows, and will require pruning for vehicular or pedestrian clearance beneath the canopy; should be grown with a single leader; very showy trunk; no thorns

Pruning requirement: needs little pruning to develop a strong structure

Breakage: resistant

Current year twig color: green

Current year twig thickness: medium

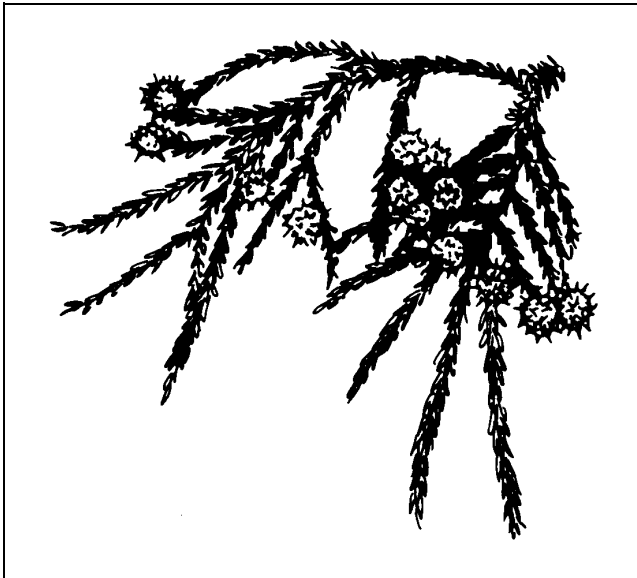


Figure 3. Foliage of 'Yoshino' Japanese-Cedar.

tree is good, particularly during the summer, to help prevent leaf blight. It thrives best with some afternoon shade in the southern part of its range. Although plants may grow two to four feet per year when young, they will rarely require pruning if properly located in the landscape as they naturally grow into a beautiful pyramidal shape. 'Yoshino' Japanese-Cedar and the species are tolerant of compacted soil and probably perform well in parking lots and other tough urban sites, with some irrigation in drought.

Propagation is by cuttings from mature wood.

Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern but occasionally bothered by leaf blight and leaf spot, but probably less so than the species. Mites can infest the foliage.

Culture

Light requirement: tree grows in part shade/part sun;
tree grows in full sun

Soil tolerances: clay; loam; sand; acidic;
well-drained

Drought 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: long-term health usually not affected by pests

USE AND MANAGEMENT

'Yoshino' Japanese-Cedar makes a dramatic landscape element for an open lawn or can be used as an attractive street tree, particularly for narrow spaces. For street tree use, remove lower branches at an early age to keep the pruning scars as small as possible. It may grow too large for most residential landscapes but makes a nice specimen or 'softening' tree for a large building.

'Yoshino' Japanese-Cedar should be grown in full sun, sheltered from harsh winds, on well-drained, moist, acid soil. Locate it so air circulation around the