

## **SOME COMMONLY USED ARBORVITAE (Thuja)**

PAUL DROBOT

The genus Thuja offers the landscaper a very versatile evergreen shrub. They are either strongly pyramidal or globular in shape. Foliage color can be green or varieties that are yellow to gold in color. Thuja occidentalis offers this part of the country the best cultivars. The cultivars keep the dark green color in the winter, not browning like the species does. Most of the cultivars can reach tree size. I have seen the species tree in Michigan that had a diameter 12-16" and a height of 30 plus feet. I have seen Thuja orientalis sold at chain stores. This species is not very hardy to this area.

### **CULTURE**

**Light** they like full sun but will tolerate shade. The more shade the less dense the foliage.

**Soil** prefer moist well drain but tolerate most conditions. They can grow in rather moist sites.

**Pruning** they are very prunable. Giving them a light shear each year will keep them tight helps to control the size of the larger growing pyramidal types. Can be sheared into a hedge.

### **PYRAMIDAL CULTIVARS**

Allow 3-5 feet for spread and height can be kept at 3-5 feet, or let to get tree size. The cultivars are much superior to the species

**Techny**

A slow growing and very resistant to winter burn. I have had very good luck with this cultivar. It seems to grow at a faster rate broad than it does in height. I haven't seen winter burn on plantings 30' from a major street. Very tight foliage. This is one of my favorite pyramidal cultivars.

**Dark Green**

A little faster growing and resistant to winter burn.

**Smaragd (Emerald)**

A very good narrow Danish cultivar, reaching 6-8 feet tall by 3 plus spread

**Pyramidalis**

A narrow pyramidal form with soft rich green foliage. A readily available cultivar.

**Holmstrup**

Even if this cultivar is much more expensive than the above list cultivars, it should be used when space is limited and low maintenance is required. I have use this shrub and it is very slow growing maybe growing 2' in height in 5 years. Never showing any winter burn.

Reaches about 6-10 feet tall by 2-4 foot spread.

Sherwood Moss

A nice dwarf cultivar with green foliage that turns bronze in the winter. Reaches around 4-6 feet tall by 4-5 foot spread.

## **GLOBULAR CULTIVARS**

Woodward

This is the standard globular Arborvitae. Allow for 3-4 feet spacing and 4-5 feet in height. Can reach over 6 feet tall by a spread of over 8 feet. I have seen large Woodward Globe reaching this size. They are easily damaged by snow and ice when becoming this large.

Hetz Midget

A dense dwarf globular type. Reach 3-4 feet tall by equal spread. The plants in my yard are about 3' by 3' and have never been pruned; they were planted about 8 years ago.

Tiny Tim

A very dense dwarf type.

## **GOLDEN CULTIVARS**

Most of the golden foliage Arborvitae has best color in the spring and fall. The golden color seems to fade in the heat of the summer.

Douglasii Aurea

A large standard pyramidal size.

Rheingold

The juvenile plant is globular but will change to a more pyramidal form with age. The golden yellow color of the summer will change to golden brown in the winter. I have this planted in my yard and my first impression is that the winter color reminds me of a discarded Christmas tree in March. Dead and gone brown!!! But I still love it..

Sunkist

A pyramidal form , golden yellow in the summer and bronze gold color in the winter.

Golden Globe

A yellow foliage globe form reaching 4' by 4'. Has proven to be very hardy for me

Golden Ribbon

A pyramidal form that has proven to be very hardy for me.