Plant Finder

Threadleaf Arborvitae

Thuja occidentalis 'Filiformis'



Threadleaf Arborvitae foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 8 feet

Spread: 6 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 3b

Other Names: Eastern White Cedar

Description:

A very interesting and yet rare evergreen which features arching sprays of fine, thread-like bright green foliage on a mounding, haystack form; unquestionably distinctive, use as a solitary for effect or in the garden; needs shelter from drying winds

Ornamental Features

Threadleaf Arborvitae is a dwarf conifer which is primarily valued in the landscape or garden for its cascading habit of growth. It has rich green evergreen foliage which emerges light green in spring. The threadlike sprays of foliage remain green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Threadleaf Arborvitae is a multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a shapely form and gracefully arching branches. It lends an extremely fine and delicate texture to the landscape composition which can make it a great accent feature on this basis alone.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub. When pruning is necessary, it is recommended to only trim back the new growth of the current season, other than to remove any dieback. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Threadleaf Arborvitae is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- General Garden Use



Threadleaf Arborvitae
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Planting & Growing

Threadleaf Arborvitae will grow to be about 8 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 6 feet. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 50 years or more.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selection of a native North American species.