

Juniperus spp.- Juniper (*Cupressaceae*)

Juniperus is an evergreen groundcover, shrub, or tree that is extremely adaptable and urban tolerant. Juniper has many species and cultivars that differ in habit, size, and color. It is a workhorse evergreen woody plant that represents tremendous variability within a genus.

FEATURES

Form

- evergreen woody plant that is variable in size and function as a groundcover, spreading shrub, upright shrub, or tree form (depending upon species and cultivar)
- groundcover forms have a procumbent mat growth habit, while spreading shrub forms have a spreading oval growth habit (where the oval is on its side); both forms are much wider than tall
- upright shrub forms and tree forms have an upright columnar, narrow pyramidal, or upright oval growth habit
- slow to medium growth rate, depending upon species and cultivar



Culture

- full sun to partial sun
- prefers moist, well-drained soils in full sun, but is very urban tolerant, especially to poor soils, compacted soils, soils of various pH, heat, drought, and moderate pruning or constant shearing; will not tolerate full shade or wet sites
- several serious potential diseases (especially twig blight [*Phomopsis*], but also various rusts) and pests (especially midge, but also aphid, bagworm, scale, webworm, beetle, and mite)
- abundantly available, with the many forms often sold in containers, but the larger selections are also sold in B&B form
- many shrub form spreading Junipers are sheared as semi-formal foundation or entranceway shrubs

Foliage

- evergreen
- awls or scales
- foliage color variable as kelly green, dark green, blue, silver, steel, or yellowish
- generally becoming darker green or bronzing



Flowers

- inconspicuous, but sometimes noticeable as brownish or yellowish elongated knobs in spring amidst the foliage

Fruits

- usually inconspicuous, sometimes noticeable as very glaucous or light blue small "cones"



Twigs

- reddish brown in many cases

Trunk

- often having an exfoliating reddish- or purplish-brown bark hidden by foliage

USAGE

Function

- groundcover, foundation shrub, group or mass planting, specimen shrub or tree
- focal point

Texture

- fine texture
- thick density

Assets

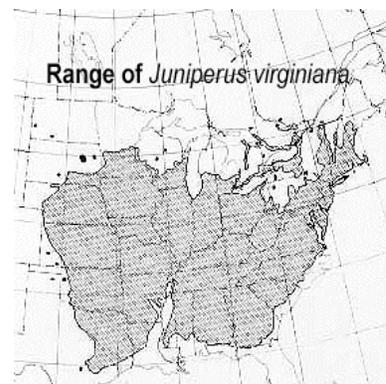
- extremely urban tolerant (except salt spray), especially to heat and drought
- often medium to rapid growth
- multitudes of growth habits, mature heights, spreads, and foliage colors
- evergreen

Liabilities

- grows far beyond expectations and often gets out of bounds

Habitat

- Zones 3 to 5 for northern limit, depending on species
- Native to species from all over the world



SELECTIONS

Alternates

- evergreen trees, shrubs, or groundcovers for neglected sites, poor soils, intensely sunny sites, wind-exposed sites, property borders, and building foundations (cultivars of *Picea abies*, *Taxus x media*, *Thuja occidentalis*, etc.)

Cultivars - Variants - Related species

- Juniperus chinensis* - Chinese Juniper - shrubs are often sprawling, typically about 5' x 10', with irregular growth habit (but this species is most variable)

-'Hetzii' - gray-green to blue-green foliage

-'Pfitzerana' - bright green foliage, very common

-'Spartan' - columnar to narrow pyramidal, 20' tall

-*Juniperus conferta* 'Blue Pacific' - Blue Pacific Shore Juniper - 1' x 6', salt spray tolerant, bluish green foliage

-*Juniperus horizontalis* 'Wiltoni' ('Wiltonii')

- Blue Rug Juniper - 4" x 6', silvery-blue foliage bronzes heavily in winter

-*Juniperus scopulorum* - Rocky Mountain Juniper

-columnar to narrow pyramidal, to 30' x 10'

-'Gray Gleam' - silvery gray foliage intensifies in winter

-'Skyrocket' - bluish, 15' x 1', sometimes pruned into a helical or barber-pole fashion

-*Juniperus squamata* 'Blue Star' - a facer or specimen Juniper, having dense blue foliage that turns bluish-purple in winter, to 2' x 2'

-*Juniperus virginiana* - Eastern Red Cedar - common wasteland Juniper, to 30' x 10'

-an inexpensive Christmas tree



To gain an appreciation for the diversity in junipers, the following 2-page table summarizes the various *Juniperus* cultivars produced in a typical Ohio Nursery (used Klyn Nursery as example)

Species	Cultivar	Common Name (Height)	Description
<i>J. chinensis</i>	'Daub's Frosted'	Daub's Frosted Juniper (18-24")	Sparkling golden frosted juvenile foliage spreads horizontally. Makes an excellent ground cover or plant for massing in a sunny location. Combines well with dwarf forms of Blue Spruce for color contrast.
	'Fruitlandii'	Fruitland Compact Juniper (3')	Vigorous growing semi-prostrate spreading form has compact branching habit with dense, bright green fine foliage. Improved Compact Pfitzer.
	'Golden Glow'	Golden Glow Juniper (30")	Bright golden-yellow juvenile foliage holds color all year. Pleasing spreading form works well in masses or as a specimen.
	'Hetzii Columnaris'	Green Columnar Juniper (15')	A fast growing Juniper with upright pyramidal form. Bright green foliage. Good hedge or screen plant. Also known as Fairview Juniper.
	'Hetzii Glauca'	Hetz Blue Juniper (5-7')	Light blue, fast growing, semi-erect spreader useful for background or screen.
	'Kallays Compact'	Kallays Compact Pfitzer (2-3')	Outstanding compact, flat-topped form with dense, horizontal branches and deep green foliage. Good for massing.
	'Keteleeri'	Keteleeri Juniper (12')	Light green foliage. Wide and conical shape.
	'Nick's Compact'	Nick's Compact Pfitzer (3')	Dense, fine evergreen foliage. Green spreading form.
	'Old Gold'	Old Gold Juniper (3')	Graceful, compact spreading form with golden-yellow new growth
	'Saybrook Gold' P.P. 5014	Saybrook Gold Juniper (30")	The brightest gold of all Junipers; holds its color all year.
	'Sea Green'	Sea Green Juniper (4')	Holds mint green foliage even through winter season. Quick growing and neat mid-size Juniper.
	'Spartan'	Spartan Juniper (15')	Rapid grower with a densely branched, tall pyramidal form having rich green needle-like foliage.
<i>J. chinensis</i> var. <i>sargentii</i>	'Viridis'	Green Sargent Juniper (12-18")	Green form holds color all year. Good ground cover. Resistant to Juniper blight.
<i>J. communis</i>	'Gold Cone'	Gold Cone Juniper	A new Juniper from New Zealand with an upright, compact, columnar habit and tight brilliant canary yellow tipped foliage.
<i>J. conferta</i>	'Blue Pacific'	Blue Pacific Juniper (1')	Vigorous prostrate plant with dense bluish-green foliage. Salt tolerant.
<i>J. horizontalis</i>	'Bar Harbor'	Bar Harbor Juniper (12")	Low, prostrate growing groundcover with blue-green foliage.
	'Blue Chip'	Blue Chip Juniper (8-10")	Excellent silvery-blue foliage, compact form and good vigor make this one of the best low growing Junipers.
	'Plumosa Youngstown'	Youngstown Andorra Juniper (12-18")	Compact and full centered, green in growing season turning purple to bronze in winter.
	'Prince of Wales'	Prince of Wales Juniper (6")	Low growing bright green Juniper quickly forms a dense carpet.
	'Wiltonii'	Blue Rug Juniper (4-6")	Excellent silvery-blue foliage forms a perfect mat. Excellent as a groundcover.

Species	Cultivar	Common Name (Height)	Description
<i>J. procumbens</i>	'Greenmound'	Greenmound Juniper (4-6")	Cushion-like form covered by dense bluish-green foliage. Tighter and more dense than <i>J. procumbens</i> 'Nana'.
	'Nana'	Dwarf Japanese Garden Juniper (8-12")	Forms a compact mat of bluish-green foliage.
<i>J. rigida</i>	'Pendula'	Weeping Needle Juniper	The gracefully weeping thin branchlets hang mane-like from angled branches and a strong main trunk.
<i>J. sabina</i>	'Blue Danube'	Blue Danube Juniper (30")	A horizontal spreader with upright branches and shimmering greenish-blue foliage.
	'Broadmoor'	Broadmoor Juniper (12-18")	One of the best low spreading forms. Foliage is green with a hint of blue. Forms dense low mounds.
	'Buffalo'	Buffalo Juniper (12-18")	The low spreading habit and the bright green, feathery foliage makes this Juniper an excellent choice as a ground cover and for massing. Holds color through the winter.
	Calgary Carpet™ ('Monna')	Calgary Carpet™ Juniper (5-10")	Low growing, soft lacy green Juniper forms a dense carpet.
<i>J. sabina</i> var. <i>tamariscifolia</i>		Tam Juniper (12-18")	Low spreading, mounded form. The horizontal branches are bluish-green.
<i>J. scopulorum</i>	'Gray Gleam'	Gray Gleam Juniper (15')	Slow growing, medium size to large columnar form. Dense silvery gray foliage intensifies its color in winter.
	'Moonglow'	Moonglow Juniper (20')	Bright silvery blue foliage and dense compact branch habit. Broad pyramidal form.
	'Skyrocket'	Skyrocket Juniper (15')	Very narrow, tightly branched upright Juniper with silver-blue foliage all year. Its narrow habit is very useful for accenting a flat, horizontal garden situation.
	'Tolleson's Weeping Juniper'	Tolleson's Weeping Juniper (10-15')	The silvery-blue foliage dangles from the branches. Plants are staked to form an upright leader giving an overall graceful appearance useful as a specimen.
	'Wichita Blue'	Wichita Blue Juniper (12')	Bright blue foliage is maintained year round on this compact pyramidal grower. Effective for screen or specimen planting.
<i>J. squamata</i>	'Blue Alps'	Blue Alps Juniper (2')	Upright, broad based column of bright blue. The erect shoots with pendulous growth tips give an overall fountain effect.
	'Blue Star'	Blue Star Juniper (2')	Slow growing, low rounded plant with silver-blue foliage. Very showy.
<i>J. virginiana</i>	'Burkii'	Burk Juniper (10-15')	Broad pyramid with dense, steel-blue foliage. Good for hedge or screen.
	'Emerald Sentinel'	Emerald Sentinel Juniper (25')	Good pyramidal columnar form with dark green foliage and bluish highlights. Produces an abundance of blue fruit for winter effect on mature plants. Useful for hedge, screen or as a specimen.
	'Grey Owl'	Grey Owl Juniper (3')	Similar to Pfitzer in habit with soft silvery-gray foliage. Sets abundant fruit.
	'Pendula'	Weeping Red Cedar	An extremely prostrate form of Juniper with bright green foliage that when staked creates a unique garden specimen that will not outgrow its place in the landscape.