



**Aylett Nurseries**  
*The Complete Garden Centre*

# Conifers

**Information Leaflet No. 4**



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# CONIFERS

*A large group of mainly evergreen trees, ranging in height from the very tall trees of 30m and more, to the dwarf rockery varieties which grow a few centimetres. They vary in foliage type and colour to bronze and purple. Their uses range from hedging and ground cover to specimens.*

Conifers will grow in most soils, but some prefer an acid (ericaceous) soil.

Most of our conifers are container grown for maximum success in transplanting, so can be planted all the year-round providing weather conditions are suitable. When planting in spring and summer, watering is essential for the quick establishment of the plant. Conifers need some protection from drying winds, a temporary windbreak constructed using wooden posts supporting hessian or shelter net (woven cloth) can be invaluable.

**PLANTING** - Planting can be undertaken throughout the year providing the ground is not frozen, water-logged or under drought conditions. Remove top spit over an area approx. 2 - 3 times the diameter of the pot. Mix with moist compost.

Test container in the hole, bringing the soil level up to ensure correct planting depth - the top of the container should be at the same level as the surrounding soil.

Before planting make sure that the container is thoroughly watered if dry, especially in Summer. After planting, water well (drench with 2 cans – approx. 4 gallons or 18 litres) as needed. Water 3 or 4 times a week in hot weather.

When planting in grass do not allow grass or weeds to grow over root area (i.e. within 50 cm.) for at least five years. Where soil is poor or well drained, mulch over surface to a depth of 5cm. with well-rotted compost or bark chippings.

**MAINTENANCE** - Trimming, if necessary, is best done in June - July. Trim plants when young rather than wait until they are larger than required. Using this method only younger wood needs to be cut and this will not spoil the shape of the plant if done carefully.

This leaflet is divided into 2 sections:

**SMALL GROWING AND SPREADING CONIFERS** - Suitable for smaller areas and rock gardens.

**LARGER GROWING CONIFERS** - Suitable for screens, hedging and specimens.



**THE AWARD OF GARDEN MERIT** is given to plants that have performed best in an RHS trial. Not all plants are included in these trials and therefore it is important to note that plants listed without an A.G.M. are not necessarily of inferior quality.

# SMALL GROWING & SPREADING CONIFERS

The conifers in this section are either small, slow or low growing. In some cases their ultimate height/spread can still be quite large. These are suitable for rockeries, outcrops, specimens, planting with heathers or for growing in containers and sink gardens.

## CHAMAECYPARIS (False Cypress)

**Lawsoniana** (Lawson's False Cypress) – There are many cultivars of this conifer species, those listed here are slow growing and make excellent specimens. They require good soil, moist but well drained and sun or part shade.

- **Broomhill Gold** – A slow growing, broad cone shaped conifer with golden foliage all year. Height in 10 years 1-1.5m. Ultimate height 2.5-3m.
- **Ellwoodii** - Slow growing, broad columnar habit. Grey green foliage which is slightly bluer in winter Height in 10 years 1.5 - 2m. Ultimate height 6m. 🏆
- **Ellwood's Gold** - Similar in habit to above but slower growing. Tips of branches tinged yellow, especially in summer. Height in 10 years 1.2 - 1.5m. Ultimate height 3 - 4m.
- **Ellwood's Pillar** - Very slow growing, dwarf column shape with blue grey foliage slightly greener in winter. Height in 10 years 60 - 75cm. Ultimate height 1 - 1.5m.
- **Fleckell Wood** – Upright conical shape. Attractive foliage with white flecks. Height and spread in 10 years 1.3m x 60cm. 🏆
- **Snow White** - Slow growing, compact habit, white tips on new growth. Height in 10 years 60-90cm. Ultimate height 2 – 2.5m.

## **Obtusa** (Hinoki Cypress)

- **Nana Aurea** – Golden foliage with shell-like shaped sprays becoming conical with age. Ideal for the rock garden. Height in 10 years 50cm. Width 30cm. Ultimate height 3m. 🏆

## **Pisifera** (Sarawa Cypress)

- **Boulevard** - Dense, conical habit. Soft foliage; blue in summer, purplish in winter. Height in 10 years 1 - 1.2m. Ultimate height 3 - 4m. 🏆

- **Filifera Aurea** - Golden thread like foliage, broad conical shape. Height in 10 years 60 - 75cm. Ultimate height 3 - 4m. Ideal for rockeries. 🏆
- **Sungold** - Dense mophead habit. Thread like overlapping branches. Slow growing. Lovely golden yellow foliage. Height and spread 60 x 60cm.

**CRYPTOMERIA JAPONICA** (Japanese Cedar) - Will tolerate most soils but grows best on slightly acid, deep moist, but well drained soil. Best in sunny, part sheltered site. Will stand some light shade.

- **Elegans** – Feathery young green growth tinged reddish-bronze in winter. Best on sunny site. Height in 10 years 1.5-2m. Ultimate height 6-8m.
- **Vilmoriniana** - Green foliage turning red in winter. Slow growing, dwarf bush with very small, crowded branches and leaves forming dense globe. Height in 10 years 25 - 30cm. Ultimate height 1 - 1.5m. 🏆

**JUNIPERUS** (Juniper) - Large genus of trees and shrubs ranging from prostrate forms to upright trees. All prefer a sunny site and well-drained soil, also suitable for alkaline soils.

**Chinensis** (Chinese Juniper)

- **Pyramidalis** - Dense, slow growing conical habit. Blue colouring all the year. Best in an open site. Height in 10 years 1 - 1.5m. Ultimate height 2 - 2.5m. 🏆

**Communis** (Common Juniper)

- **Compressa** - Green foliage. Slow growing, compact columnar habit. Ideal for small rockeries and sink gardens. Height in 10 years 30 - 40cm. Ultimate height 75 - 100cm. 🏆
- **Gold Cone** - Golden yellow foliage all year. Narrow columnar habit. Ideal for rock gardens. Height in 10 years 90 - 120cm, spread 15 - 30cm.
- **Green Carpet** - Dark green foliage all year turning bright green in summer. Very dense ground covering habit. Height 15cm. Spread 90cm. 🏆
- **Repanda** - Dull green foliage, bronzing slightly in winter. Strong growing dense prostrate form building up with age. Good ground cover. Height in 10 years 25cm. Ultimate height 40 - 50cm. Spread 2 - 3m. 🏆

## **Horizontalis** (Creeping Juniper)

- **Blue Chip**- Low growing, compact habit. Feathery bright green silver-blue foliage turning blue green in winter. Height 30cm, spread 120cm.
- **Ice Blue**- Ground covering habit, looks good growing on a slope. Light powder blue foliage darkens in the winter. Works well with heathers. Height 10cm, spread 1.5m.

## **x Media** (syn. x pfitzeriana)

- **Mint Julep** - Rich mint green foliage. Very hardy. Vigorous, low spreading habit. Height in 10 years 60 - 70cm, spread 120cm. Ultimate height 80 - 90cm, spread 1.5 - 2m.
- **Old Gold** - Bronze gold foliage all the year round. Semi-prostrate habit. Height and spread over 10 years 1 x 2m. Ultimate height and spread 2 x 2.5m. 🏆
- **Sabina Tamariscifolia** (Tamarix Juniper) - Blue green foliage, overlapping branches. Dense, prostrate habit. Height and spread in 10 years 20cm x 1m. Ultimate height and spread 50 cm x 2 - 3m. 🏆

## **Scopulorum** (Rocky Mountain Juniper)

- **Blue Arrow** – Blue/grey foliage. Narrow pencil shaped conifer. Height in 10 years 1.5-2m. Ultimate height 4-6m, spread 40cm.

## **Squamata** (Flaky Juniper)

- **Blue Carpet** - Blue foliage. Prostrate but not ground hugging habit. Fast ground cover. Light prune in July. Height in 10 years 30 - 40cm. Spread 2m. 🏆
- **Blue Star** - Silver blue foliage all year. Dense bushy habit forming slightly irregular shape. Height and spread over 10 years 30 x 50cm. Ultimate 1 - 1.5m. 🏆
- **Holger** - Bright creamy yellow foliage in late spring turning blue green in winter. In 10 years, height 40 - 50cm, spread 70 - 80cm. Ultimate height 1.5m, spread 1.5m. 🏆

**PICEA** (Spruce) - Will thrive in acid-neutral soil in sun or part shade.

**Abies Nidiformis** (Bird's Nest Spruce) - Bright green new growth. Flat topped spreading habit. Height and spread over 10 years 30 x 60cm. Ultimate height 1.2 x 2m. 🏆

**Glauca** (White Spruce)

- **Conica** - Fresh green new growth in Spring. Perfectly shaped cone with dense compact habit. Height in 10 years 75 - 100cm. Ultimate height 2-2.5m.
- **Sanders Blue** – Silvery blue foliage all year, brighter new foliage in spring. Dense, conical form.. Height over 10 years 1.2m x 60cm. Ultimate height 6m x 1m. 🏆

**Pungens globosa** (Dwarf Blue Spruce) - Intense blue foliage in Spring. Slow growing, dense bush. Height in 10 years 45 - 60cm. Ultimate height 1.2 - 1.5m. Spread 75 - 100cm.

**PINUS** (Pine) – Pines prefer well drained soil in full sun. The 5 needled species need acid-neutral soil.

**Mugo** (Dwarf Mountain Pine) - Light green new shoots of variable growth rate. Usually low and bushy. Height in 10 years 1 - 1.5m. Ultimate height 4 - 5m. A very lime tolerant conifer.

- **Carsten's Wintergold** – Yellow winter foliage turns green in summer. Globular habit. Height in 10 years 50cm, ultimate 80cm, spread 120cm.
- **Gnom** – Bright green foliage. Compact variety forming a dense globular mound. Very slow growing. Height up to 3m, spread 4m.
- **Mops** - Grey green foliage. Whitish new shoots and attractive winter buds. Very compact, dense bun shape. Height and spread over 10 years 40 x 60cm. Ultimate height and spread 80 x 120cm. 🏆
- **Ophir** - Golden tipped needles during Winter turning bright green in Summer. Dwarf compact habit. Height 30 - 60cm.

**TAXUS** (Yew) – Will grow in acid neutral and alkaline soil as long as it's well drained. Will grow in sun or shade. Trim in July as needed to improve shape. Will tolerate more pruning than most conifers. CAUTION TOXIC IF EATEN.

### **Baccata**

- **Fastigiata** – (Irish Yew) Light green foliage, red berries in Autumn. Slow growing, columnar habit. Height in 10 years 1.5 - 2m. Ultimate height 4 - 5m. Good specimen plant. 🏆
- **Aureomarginata** – Green foliage with yellow margins. Slow growing, broad, columnar habit. Height in 10 years 1.5 - 2m. Ultimate height 4 - 5m. 🏆
- **Standishii** (Golden Irish Yew) - Yellow foliage all year. Colours best in a sunny position. Very slow growing, dense column. Red berries in autumn. Height in 10 years 90 - 120cm. Ultimate height 2 - 2.5m. 🏆
- **Summergold** - Gold foliage all year, bright yellow in Summer. Low arching, semi-prostrate habit. Height and spread over 10 years 50 x 150cm. Ultimate height and spread 1 x 2 - 2.5m.

**THUJA** - Will thrive in almost any soil, providing that this is well drained, but not shallow, chalky soil. Will thrive in sun or part shade. Scale like aromatic foliage. CAUTION HARMFUL IF EATEN.

### **Occidentalis** (Western Arborvitae)

- **Danica** - Attractive foliage - bronze in Winter, dark green in Summer. Slow growing, neat globular shape. Height and spread over 10 years 45 x 60cm. Ultimate height and spread 75 x 90cm. Ideal conifer for rockeries. 🏆
- **Rheingold** - One of the best garden conifers. Old gold in Winter. Slow growing, eventually wide, cone shaped. Height in 10 years 1 - 1.5m. Ultimate height 3 - 4m.
- **Smaragd** – Bright green foliage. Slow growing, narrow pyramid shape. Height in 10 years 2-2.5m. Ultimate height 4-6m. Useful for neat hedges or a specimen. 🏆

## **Orientalis** (Eastern Arborvitae)

- **Aurea Nana** - Golden yellow foliage in summer, turning yellow bronze in Winter. Very compact neat habit forming an oval. Height in 10 years 60 - 70cm. Ultimate height 1.5 - 2.5m. 🏆

## **Plicata** (Western Red Cedar)

- **Rogersii** - Dark green foliage with outside tips golden bronze. Handsome, slow growing globular bush. Height in 10 years 25 - 30cm. Ultimate height 80 - 100cm.

## **LARGER GROWING CONIFERS**

Suitable for screens, hedges, windbreaks and specimen planting. For the very large growing types, siting is important.

**ABIES** (Firs) - Large, hardy, graceful trees. Require good, deep, lime-free moist soil. Most have attractive cones.

**Koreana – (Korean Fir)** - Silvery grey new growth turning dark green with bluish reverse. Bears purple cones at a young age. Slow growing. Ultimate height 15m.

## **ARAUCARIA**

**Araucana** (Monkey Puzzle Tree) - Will thrive in almost any site, needs good moist soil. Long spidery branches with dark green foliage. Quite slow growing. Height in 10 years 2 - 3m. Ultimate height 20m or over. A feature for the garden.

**CEDRUS** (Cedar) - Large growing trees, excellent for specimen planting in large gardens and parks. Prefer a well-drained, loamy soil, will grow on clay if it is not too wet. Large barrel shaped cones, standing upright, nestling in the branches.

- **Atlantica Glauca Pendula** (Blue Cedar) – A spectacular weeping conifer. Silver blue foliage. Train the main shoot vertically to ensure straight stems. Height in 10 years 4-5m. Ultimate height 25-30m. 🏆
- **Deodara** (Himalayan or Indian Cedar) - Bright green foliage. Beautiful large tree of somewhat pendant habit. Height in 10 years 8 - 9m, spread 5 - 6m. Ultimate height 25 - 30m.

**CHAMAECYPARIS** - Requires good soil, moist but well drained. Will thrive in sun or part shade.

**Lawsoniana** (Lawson False Cypress)

- **Alumigold** - Good yellow foliage in spring turning yellow green in Summer. Columnar habit. Best colour in sunny position. Height in 10 years 1.5 - 2m. Ultimate height 8 - 10m.
- **Pembury Blue** - Silvery blue foliage in soft sprays. Neat broad conical habit. Height in 10 years 2 - 3m. Ultimate height 7 - 10m. Best blue cypress. 🏆
- **White Spot** - Broad conical habit. Silvery green appearance in spring and summer. Height in 10 years 2 - 3m, spread 1.5m. Ultimate height 4 -5m.

**CRYPTOMERIA** -Will tolerate most soils but thrives best on slightly acid, deep moist, but well drained soil. Sunny partly sheltered site.

**Japonica Elegans** (Japanese Cedar) - Feathery brown green foliage in Summer, bronze in Autumn and Winter. Wide, bushy cone shaped habit. Height in 10 years 1.5 - 2m. Ultimate height 6 - 8m.

**CUPRESSUS** - Will grow on most soils but dislikes very wet conditions. Best in a sunny position with some protection from strong winds. Should be staked when planted.

**Macrocarpa Goldcrest** (Monterey Cypress)- Feathery golden yellow foliage all year. Plant in full sun for best colour. Narrow conical habit. Trim in July to keep compact. Height in 10 years 2.5 - 3m. Ultimate height 7 - 10m.

**Macrocarpa Wilma** - Narrow conical habit. Attractive golden foliage. Height in 10 years 2.5-3m. Ultimate height 7-10m, spread 1.5m. year height 2.5-3m. Ultimate height 20-30m.

**Sempervirens** - (Italian Cypress) - Aromatic dark green foliage. Narrow habit. 10-year height 2.5-3m. Ultimate height 20-30m.

**CUPRESSOCYPARIS** (Leyland Cypress) - A valuable introduction in recent years. Hardy fast-growing conifer, ideal for hedging or as a specimen tree. When planting for a hedge, minimum spacing 75 - 100cm apart - minimum hedge height 2m. Stake well when planting. Trim regularly to thicken. Will grow on most soils, in sun or part shade. May cause skin allergy.

**Leylandii** - Rich green foliage. Height, untrimmed in 10 years 6 - 8m. Ultimate height 30m. May grow up to 1.2m a year. Trim to shape in July.

**Leylandii Gold Rider** - Yellow green foliage, brightest in full sun. Height, untrimmed In 10 years 2 - 3m. Ultimate height 20m. May grow up to 1m a year. Trim to shape June - July.

**GINKGO** - Remarkable and distinct deciduous tree - part of an ancient family which occurred in many parts of the world 160 million years ago. Hardy and will grow on most soils, in sun or part shade.

**Biloba** (Maidenhair Tree) - Deciduous tree with peculiar fan shaped leaves of pale green turning clear yellow in Autumn before falling. Pyramidal habit. Height in 10 years 3.5 - 4m. Ultimate height 15 - 20m. Beautiful deciduous conifer. 🏆

**LARIX** (Larch) - Large deciduous tree. Fast growing and suitable for larger gardens and woodland. Will grow on most soils except wet or chalky.

**METASEQUOIA** - Strong growing deciduous trees. Will thrive best in moist but well drained soil. Hardy tree that will succeed in industrial areas on a sunny site.

**Glyptostrobooides** (Dawn Redwood) – Upright tree with open habit. Needs room to spread. Height in 10 years 4-6m. Ultimate height 30-35m.

**Glyptostrobooides Gold Rush**– Fine gold foliage turns orange in autumn. Height in 10 years 5m. Ultimate height 35m.

**PICEA** (Spruce) – Prefer acid-neutral soil in sun.

**PINUS** (Pines) – Sunny site and well-drained soil.

**Sylvestris** – (Scots Pine) Large growing tree with an ultimate height of 25m. Grey/green needles in pairs, cones 5cm long. Needs a sunny site & well drained soil. We occasionally stock cultivars of Pinus sylvestris.

**Wallichiana** (Bhutan Pine) - Long, light blue needles in bundles of five's, prefers acid soil. Ellipsoid, drooping cones. Height in 10 years 4.5 - 5m. Ultimate height 20 - 25m.

**TAXODIUM DISTICHUM** (Swamp cypress)

- **Cascade Falls** - Deciduous conifer with a wide weeping habit. Leaves turn yellow bronze in autumn. Ultimate height 3m.

**TAXUS BACCATA** (Common Yew) - Dark green foliage, red fruits in autumn. Variable habit if untrimmed. For hedging, space 45 - 60cm apart. Height in 10 years 1-2m. Ultimate height 9 - 10m. Ideal for hedging and topiary.

CAUTION TOXIC IF EATEN. 

**THUJA** (Western Red Cedar) - Large growing trees, ideal for hedging, screening or as specimen trees. Need good soil, moist but well drained. Sun or part shade. Aromatic foliage. CAUTION HARMFUL IF EATEN.

**Occidentalis Smaragd** - Bright green foliage. Slow growing, narrow pyramid shape. Height in 10 years 2 - 2.5m. Ultimate height 4 - 6m. Useful for neat hedges or a specimen. 

**Plicata** (Western red cedar) Large pyramidal tree reaching 35m in height. Aromatic glossy scale like foliage.

- **Atrovirens** - Bright green aromatic foliage. Dense conical habit. Quite fast growing. As hedge, space 50cm apart. Height in 10 years 5 - 6m. Ultimate height 30 - 40m. 
- **Zebrina** – Aromatic green foliage with creamy-yellow bands. Good for hedging. Ultimate height 10-12m, spread 4-6m.

**This catalogue is a guide to the conifers which we most frequently stock. Please contact us or visit our plant advisory office for further information or to check whether the conifers you are interested in are in stock.**

**This leaflet is available in alternative formats**

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