Western Red Cedar, Whipcord

Thuja plicata 'Whipcord'



Western Red Cedar, Whipcord
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 5 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4b

Other Names: Arborvitae

Description:

A real gem of an evergreen shrub, forming a compact mound; features long green foliage that archs downward like hanging cords; ideal for use as an interesting detail accent in the shrub or rock garden; performs best in moist locations

Ornamental Features

Western Red Cedar, Whipcord 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. The scale-like sprays of foliage turn an outstanding coppery-bronze in the fall, which persists throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Western Red Cedar, Whipcord is a dense 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.

Western Red Cedar, Whipcord is recommended for the following landscape applications;



Western Red Cedar, Whipcord
foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- General Garden Use



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Planting & Growing

Western Red Cedar, Whipcord will grow to be about 5 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 4 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. This plant should be periodically fertilized throughout the active growing season with a specially-formulated acidic fertilizer. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selection of a native North American species.

Clean up Rating (1-5) 1=least effort 5=most effort

Clean Up Rating (1) Inconspicuous tiny brown seeds and some inner foliage drops. Clean up by blowing or raking debris onto the lawn and mow or bag. Evergreens need to be watered during the winter. Our desert climate especially in late winter to early spring evergreens can suffer during next growing season. An easy way to remember check for dryness on the holidays Halloween, Thanksgiving, New Year's Day, Valentines Day & Easter. During the growing season is maintain regular deep watering.