Cedar, Incense

Calocedrus decurrens



Cedar, Incense
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 40 feet

Spread: 15 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4b

Other Names: Incensecedar

Description:

A wonderfully formal looking evergreen with a upright and narrow habit of growth, both distinctive and beautiful, adaptable to many conditions but does best in areas of high humidity; use as an exclamation point or for a tall screening wall

Ornamental Features

Cedar, Incense is primarily valued in the landscape for its rigidly columnar form. It has dark green evergreen foliage. The fragrant fan-shaped sprays of foliage remain dark green throughout the winter. However, the fruit can be messy in the landscape and may require occasional clean-up.



Cedar, Incense foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Cedar, Incense is an evergreen tree with a narrowly upright and columnar growth habit. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance tree, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It is a good choice for attracting birds to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Cedar, Incense is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Vertical Accent
- Hedges/Screening



Cedar, Incense
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Cedar, Incense will grow to be about 40 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 15 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground, and should not be planted underneath power lines. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live to a ripe old age of 100 years or more; think of this as a heritage tree for future generations!

This tree 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 pH, but grows best in poor soils. It is quite intolerant of urban pollution, therefore inner city or urban streetside plantings are best avoided. This species is native to parts of North America.

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

Clean Up Rating (2): Inside foliage can shed in the autumn or spring. Cedars have male and female reproductive parts on one tree. Cones mature 3/4 to 1 1/2 inches long. Interior needles and cones can be blown or raked onto the lawn and mowed or bagged. 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 maintain regular deep watering.