Arborvitae, Zmatlik

Thuja occidentalis 'Zmatlik'

Height: 15 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 3b

Other Names: Eastern White Cedar

Description:

A narrow, columnar evergreen tree with medium green foliage that becomes an intense plum-bronze in winter; makes an excellent articulation tree or tall hedge; hardy and heat tolerant, takes pruning well; best with some sun.

Ornamental Features

Arborvitae, Zmatlik is primarily valued in the landscape for its rigidly columnar form. It has attractive green evergreen foliage. The scale-like sprays of foliage are highly ornamental and turn plum purple and coppery-bronze in the fall, which persists throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Arborvitae, Zmatlik is a multi-stemmed 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. 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.

Arborvitae, Zmatlik is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Vertical Accent
- Hedges/Screening



Arborvitae, Zmatlik
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Arborvitae, Zmatlik foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Arborvitae, Zmatlik will grow to be about 15 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 4 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 50 years or more.

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 type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. This is a selection of a native North American species.

Special Attributes

Arborvitae don't do well if they aren't well watered regularly. 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.