

Eastern red- cedar

Juniperus virginiana

Common names:

Eastern red-cedar, red cedar, Eastern redcedar, upright juniper, Eastern red cedar juniper



Eastern red-cedar is native to North America. These cold-hardy, adaptable evergreen trees serve many purposes in the landscape, especially in sites that are dry, alkaline or windy. The foliage of scale-like needles is attractive but prickly. In late summer and fall, many junipers have blue-green berry-like fruits, actually modified cones, that attract birds. Because they are quite salt-tolerant, they can be used near roads, driveways, and sidewalks. Eastern red-cedar is usually a tree, but there are shrub-sized cultivars available.

This species is native to the Chicago region according to Swink and Wilhelm's *Plants of the Chicago Region*, with updates made according to current research.

Family (English)

Cypress

Family (botanic)

Cupressaceae

→ Overview

More Information

Care Knowledge

Cultivars

Planting site	City parkway, Residential and parks, Wide median
Tree or plant type	Tree, Shrub
Foliage	Evergreen (foliage year-round)
Native locale	Chicago area, Illinois, North America
Size range	Small shrub (3-5 feet), Medium shrub (5-8 feet), Large shrub (more than 8 feet), Small tree (15-25 feet), Medium tree (25-40 feet), Large tree (more than 40 feet)
Mature height	40-50 feet
Mature width	8-20 feet
Light exposure	Full sun (6 hrs direct light daily)
Hardiness zones	Zone 3, Zone 4, Zone 5 (Northern Illinois), Zone 6 (City of Chicago), Zone 7, Zone 8, Zone 9
Soil preference	Alkaline soil, Dry soil, Moist, well-drained soil
Tolerances	Alkaline soil, Dry sites, Occasional drought, Road salt
Season of interest	Early winter, midwinter, late winter, early spring, mid spring, late spring, early summer, midsummer, late summer, early fall, mid fall, late fall
Flower color and fragrance	Inconspicuous
Shape or form	Mounded, Narrow, Pyramidal, Upright
Growth rate	Moderate
Transplants well	Yes

Wildlife

Game birds, Game mammals, Small mammals,
Songbirds

Has cultivars

Yes



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