

# THUJA TREE

Everything you need to know about thuja Green giant trees

# THUJA

- ▶ Thuja (/ˈθjuːdʒə/ THEW-jə)[1] is a genus of coniferous tree or shrub in the Cupressaceae (cypress family). There are five species in the genus, two native to North America and three native to eastern Asia.[2][3][4][5] The genus is monophyletic and sister to Thujopsis. Members are commonly known as arborvitae (from the Latin term for ‘tree of life’), thujas or cedars.[6]



# THUJA OCCIDENTALIS

- ▶ *Thuja occidentalis*, also known as northern white-cedar,[1] eastern white-cedar,[2] or arborvitae,[2][3] is an evergreen coniferous tree, in the cypress family Cupressaceae, which is native to eastern Canada and much of the north-central and northeastern United States.[3][4] It is widely cultivated as an ornamental plant. It is not to be confused with *Juniperus virginiana* (eastern red cedar).

# APPEARANCE

The name Thuja Green Giant is aptly named. These trees can grow up to 3 feet per year until maturity in ideal growing conditions. Their ultimate height is 50-60 feet tall and their width can be up to 12-20 feet. Thuja Green Giants grow in a uniform, columnar shape, without homeowners having to worry about pruning or shearing.

- ▶ Thuja Green Giants are large, dense, and pyramidal with a rich green hue in spring and summer and a darker, bronzer shade in winter. Their tiny, glossy, scale-like leaves are packed tightly together and overlap, creating a fan of foliage.

# CHARACTERISTICS

- ▶ Thuja Giant Trees can either be planted as “specimen” trees—as individual plants to accent a yard—or in clusters to create a dense hedge. You can plant one every 5-6 feet to create a natural fence, shielding you from neighbors, busy streets, or unsightly views. Another option is two staggered rows of trees spaced 10 feet apart to help reduce noise. This large, living privacy screen can also act as a wind-break.

# IDEAL HARDINESS ZONES

USDA Hardiness Zones indicate the areas where plants thrive. There are 11 zones total, and each growing zone is 10 degrees Fahrenheit colder or warmer each winter than the adjacent one. These tools can help gardeners decide the best plants for their area.

- ▶ Thuja Green Giants thrive in Hardiness Zones 5-9, predominantly in the Southeastern states. Within that area, they perform best in Hardiness Zones 6-8.

# PLANTING PROCESS

The best time to plant Thuja Green Giants is spring or fall, when the weather is cool but not cold. That way, the trees can grow roots before the cold of winter or heat of summer, which can cause stress and hinder growth

Start by removing any weeds or turfgrass, and clearing debris. Next, loosen the soil with a spade. When you're ready to dig the hole, be careful not to dig too deep—that can cause the soil beneath the tree to settle after you water, making your tree sink. You want the hole to be twice as wide as the root ball of the tree, but only as deep as the root ball's height.

- ▶ Remove the root ball from the container and tease it apart before setting it upright in the hole. Backfill the hole, and lightly tamp the soil to firm it up. Give the area about 1 inch of water, and apply 2-3 inches of mulch.

# GROWING CONDITIONS AND TOLERANCE

Before you decide whether you'd like to invest in one or several Thuja Green Giants, you should learn about the best ways to plant and grow them.

- ▶ Sun and shade
- ▶ Thuja Green Giants are known as robust, hardy trees. They do not suffer from common issues like bagworm. These trees are tolerant of: