



Great Conifer Families for Your Small Garden

Penny Kriese, September 18, 2021

Don't hug a stranger, know your trees

Designing with:

1. **Pines/*Pinus***: prefer full **sun**, all soil types, drought-tolerant, range of needle types
2. **Spruces/*Picea***: **sun** or part shade, prefers **dry soils**, prickly
3. **Firs/*Abies***: **full sun**, **moist soils**, cool temperatures
4. **Cedars/*Cedrus***: prefer full **sun**, **low water** needs once established
5. **Hemlocks/*Tsuga***: prefer **shade**, tolerate heavy shade, moderate **water**, no wind
6. **Douglas-firs/*Pseudotsuga***: full **sun**, water shallow roots; constant needle drop not good for lawns; use for firescaping once mature
7. **Larches/*Larix***: prefer **full sun**, some shade, need **regular water**, cold hardy, **deciduous** so leaves turn gold and drop in fall
8. **Cypress/*Cupressus***: prefer **full sun**, adapt to **dry conditions** once established, hardy in strong winds, need little pruning
 - **Leyland Cypress**: tall, wide, columnar; used for hedging, look for new small varieties
9. **Falsecypresses/*Chamaecyparis***: pyramidal, best in **full sun**, **cool, moist climate**; used as hedges and screens or on slopes at elevations, variable soil types
 - **Hinoki Cypress**: slow-growing, sun to part shade, moist well-drained soil; used in containers, small spaces, foundations and bonsai; huge number of cultivars of varying sizes, colors and types
10. **Japanese Cedars/*Cryptomeria***: full **sun**, **part shade**, well-drained soil; **warm** climates, moderate water needs; **intolerant of poor soils** and cold
11. **Sequoias**: **large** trees, prefer full **sun**; deep, moist well-drained soils, fluted trunks
12. **Junipers/*Juniperus***: hundreds of varieties, **tough**, evergreen, full **sun**, **drought-tolerant**, prickly, slopes, borders, rock gardens
13. **Siberian Cypress/*Microbiota***: **sun to shade**, drought tolerant, **spreading groundcover**

Find out about

- **Seattle Tree Ambassador Program** and **tree walks** scheduled near you:
<https://www.seattle.gov/trees/get-involved/tree-ambassador>
- **Tree Planting and Care Webinar, with Trees for Seattle:**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VP13ksRwFrE>
- **Visit the Bellevue Botanical Garden Rock Garden**
- [North American Rock Garden Society – NW Chapter](#) (BBG partner)