The Mustard Seed
Landscaping & Garden Centers

Primo® Arborvitae

Thuja occidentalis 'IslPrim'



Primo Arborvitae
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 4 feet

Spread: 12 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4a

Other Names: Eastern White Cedar

Description:

A compact, upright evergreen shrub, slow growing into a spire-like shape; rich deep deep transitions to copper-bronze in the cooler months; ideal for general garden use, containers or beautiful in groupings; hardy and adaptable, best with adequate sun

Ornamental Features

Primo Arborvitae is a dwarf conifer which is primarily valued in the landscape or garden for its ornamental upright and spreading habit of growth. It has dark green evergreen foliage. The scale-like sprays of foliage turn an outstanding coppery-bronze in the fall, which persists throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Primo Arborvitae is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub. 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.

Primo Arborvitae is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

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Planting & Growing

Primo Arborvitae will grow to be about 4 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 12 inches. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 30 years.

This shrub 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. 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. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selection of a native North American species.

Primo Arborvitae makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. Note that when grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden. Be aware that in our climate, most plants cannot be expected to survive the winter if left in containers outdoors, and this plant is no exception. Contact our experts for more information on how to protect it over the winter months.