

# Arboretum Review



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## Arboretum juniper varieties

Junipers are valuable landscape plantings in our northern climate. In size they range from low, prostrate shrubs to medium height, upright trees. They are useful ground covers, foundation shrubs, lawn specimens, and background screen plantings. All junipers prefer full sunlight. The following have been tested in the arboretum:

***Juniperus chinensis*** (Chinese Juniper)—This is a highly variable species from China, Mongolia, and Japan. The typical form is a pyramidal tree that may reach a height of 50 feet or more. Horticultural varieties or cultivars have been selected and most of these are more shrub- than tree-like.

'Ames'—This is a broad, pyramidal plant reaching a height of about 9 feet. The needles are bluish-green at first, turning green at maturity. It is an excellent evergreen for screening purposes and produces an abundance of berries.

'Blaauw'—This low, spreading shrub was introduced from Japan in 1924. It grows to about 3 feet with a spread of 4 to 5 feet. The needles are scale-like with a yellowish-green color. It is generally winter hardy but sometimes shows slight tipkill following a severe winter.

'Hetzii'—A spreading form of the Chinese juniper with bluish-green foliage, this cultivar may be more shade tolerant than other junipers.

'Maney'—This was introduced from Ames, Iowa, by the late professor F. J. Maney. The needles are awl-shaped and a bluish-green color. The plant grows to about 4 feet with a similar spread. It is widely planted in this area and is sometimes subject to snow breakage when planted in foundation plantings.

'Mountbatten'—This has a dense, upright growth habit and a grayish-green color. It reaches a height of about 10 feet and is a very good cultivar.

'Pfitzeriana'—This is perhaps the most commonly planted of the Chinese junipers. It normally grows to a height of 3 to 5 feet with a spread of 6 feet or more. Staked plants may be somewhat taller. The typical Pfitzer is dark green with scale-like needles. Several selections have been made of this cultivar. These are the Golden Pfitzer, 'Pfitzeriana Compacta,' and Blue Pfitzer, 'Pfitzeriana Glauca.'

var. *sargentii*—This is a low spreading form that makes an excellent ground cover. Its foliage is dark green and it is native along the coast in northern Japan.

var. *sargentii* 'Glauca'—This is similar to var. *sargentii* except the foliage is silvery green.

***Juniperus communis*** (Common Juniper)—This species found in the northern hemisphere is native to Korea, Japan, and North America. Like the Chinese juniper, this species is highly variable in its growth habit. The typical tree form common in Europe is not planted often. The low, spreading cultivars are more popular for landscaping.

var. *depressa*—This is the common Oldfield Juniper that forms a low vase-shaped plant about 2 feet tall and 6 feet across. Its needles are green.

var. *depressa* 'Aurea'—This is similar to the above variety except the new growth is bright yellow. The tips may become somewhat brown toward fall and during the winter.

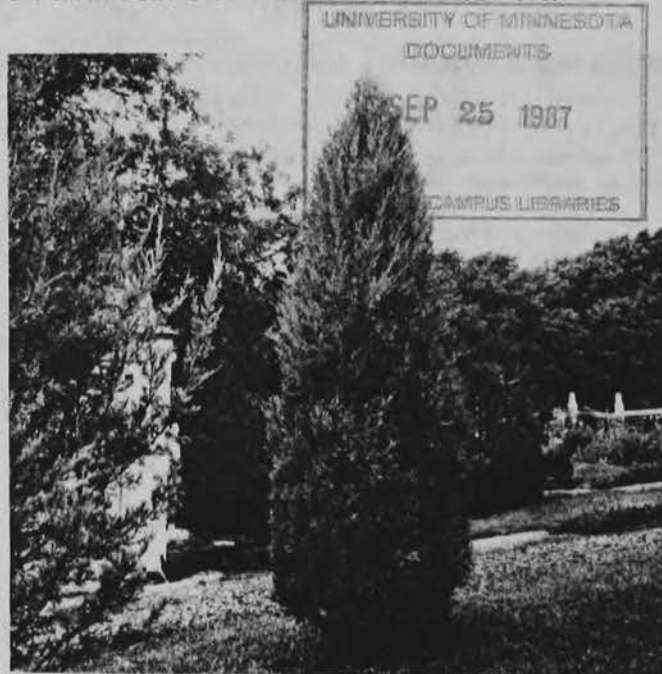
'Hibernica'—The Irish Juniper has not proven dependably hardy in our trials. Unless you have a very sheltered spot, we cannot recommend this cultivar.

'Repanda'—This is a low, spreading form less than a foot tall and about 3 feet wide. Our plants are still quite small.

var. *saxatilis*—This is another low, spreading form from the mountainous areas of Europe and America.

***Juniperus conferta*** (Shore Juniper)—From our limited experience with this species, we would have to say that it is not dependably hardy. Native on sandy seashores in Japan and Sachalin, an Asiatic peninsula, this species makes a beautiful ground cover on sandy soils. We hope to find a hardy strain.

***Juniperus horizontalis*** (Creeping Juniper)—This is a common species across northern North America. Most forms creep along the surface of the soil and root wherever the stem contacts the soil. Some forms are procumbent (having stems that trail along the ground without rooting) and may grow to 3 feet. The foliage color ranges from dark green to bluish-green. Its needles usually are small and scale-like. On some cultivars they are longer and awl-shaped. We have about 25 of these cultivars under observation and new ones are being introduced all the time. You are invited to come to the arboretum and study these cultivars. Some of them were described in Arboretum Review No. 2—1970.



*Juniperus scopulorum* 'Medora'

***Juniperus procumbens*** (Japparden Juniper)—This is a truly beautiful creeping juniper with bluish-green, awl-shaped leaves. The species grows about 8 inches high and a single plant may have a spread of 5 feet or more. Some winter burn occurs in open winters.

'Nana'—The Dwarf Japparden Juniper is similar to the species but has a much slower growth.

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**Juniperus sabin** (Savin Juniper)—This juniper is native in the mountains of central and southern Europe, western Asia, Siberia, and the Caucasus Mountains near Moscow. It is a highly variable species with many cultivars in cultivation. The typical species is upright with scale-like, green needles, and grows to about 3 feet. Considerable winterburn occurs during a severe winter and Juniper Blight is often a problem (causing the browning and dying of the center branches). The following cultivars are superior to the species:

'Arcadia'—This is a low, spreading form with dark green, scale-like leaves. A recent introduction from Morden, Manitoba, this cultivar is now readily available from most retail nurseries. The plants hold their dark green color throughout the winter and make an excellent ground cover for slopes or a low evergreen for foundation plantings.

'Blue Danube'—This is a spreading selection with grayish-blue foliage. The branch tips point upward. It is very vigorous.

'Broadmoor'—This is another low spreading form of the Savin Juniper. The foliage is a soft, grayish-green color.

'Skandia'—A sister selection to Arcadia, this is an excellent low, spreading plant with small, green, scale-like needles.

var. **tamariscifolia**—This botanical variety originated in Spain. The foliage is a soft, bluish-green color. Several forms are being grown. Plant it in a sheltered location because this variety is inclined to winterburn in exposed situations. This is a very attractive plant in the right location.

'Von Ehren'—A vase-shaped shrub about 4 feet tall, this green cultivar comes through most winters without injury.

**Juniperus scopulorum** (Rocky Mountain Juniper)—This species is scattered throughout the western United States from the Badlands of the Dakotas to the Cascade Mountains. The typical form is a narrow, pyramidal tree reaching a height of about 30 feet. The bark on old trees is reddish-brown and shredding. The foliage color varies from dark green to bluish-green. The berries are bluish and ripen the second year. Many cultivars have been named and are available from most nurseries.

'Blue Heaven'—This is a good blue form introduced by Plumfield Nursery of Fremont, Nebraska. It takes on a broad, pyramidal form.

'Chandler's Silver'—This is a broadly pyramidal form with bluish-green foliage. With a little shearing, this makes a dense, attractive plant.

'Cologreen'—This is a selection of the Rocky Mountain Juniper. This green cultivar is susceptible to cedar-apple rust.

'Dewdrop'—A broad, pyramidal selection with bluish-green foliage, this cultivar suffers some winterburn during a severe winter.

'Hillborne Silver Globe'—This globe-shaped selection with bluish-green color is susceptible to cedar-apple rust.

'Lakewood Globe'—This is another globe-shaped form with bluish-green foliage. Several leaders may develop.

'March Frost'—This is a vigorous upright selection with good bluish-green foliage.

'Medora'—A selection from the Badlands of North Dakota, this slender-shaped selection has a good blue-green color. This needs very little shearing to produce a narrow, columnar specimen. It is slow growing.

'Moffetii'—A pyramidal form with good blue-green color, this plant bears fruits abundantly.

'North Star'—An upright green selection, this cultivar suffers slight winterburn.

'Pathfinder'—This has a good pyramidal form with bluish-green foliage and suffers some dieback.

'Welchii'—This is an upright, pyramidal form with blue-green foliage.

**Juniperus virginiana** (Eastern Redcedar)—This is the common redcedar throughout the eastern states, growing as far west as the Badlands of South Dakota. This species typically has a tree form that may be narrow, pyramidal, or wide spreading. Occasionally low prostrate forms occur. Many cultivars have been selected and are being grown. Most forms can become badly infected by cedar-apple rust. The following have been tested in the arboretum:

'Burkii'—Our specimens are about as broad as they are tall. The foliage is light green and rather sparse. Winterburn has ranged from none to severe.

'Canaertii'—This is a broadly pyramidal type with bright green foliage. Little winter injury has been observed on this cultivar. It is quite susceptible to cedar-apple rust.

'Hillspire'—This green broadly pyramidal selection produces abundant fruit. Winter injury has varied from none to severe. It is susceptible to cedar-apple rust and tends to open with age.

'Kosteri'—This low, spreading type of medium green color tends to be open in the center. Winterburn has varied from none to severe. It is not as good as the spreading forms of J. sabin.

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