

## Plant Profiles: HORT 2242 Landscape Plants II

**Botanical Name:** *Tsuga canadensis*

**Common Name:** Canadian hemlock, eastern hemlock

**Family Name:** Pinaceae – pine family

**General Description:** *Tsuga canadensis* is a beautiful, graceful tree found throughout eastern North America in cool, moist woodland conditions. Although not native to the Chicago area it is considered an elegant and refined plant for the ornamental landscape as long as it is sited properly. Canadian hemlock performs best in organic, moist but well-drained soils in a site that is sheltered from drying winds and hot sun. It benefits from mulch and regular watering during times of drought. Regardless of the extra care this plant takes it is one of the few conifers that thrive in full or part shade and can provide a much needed evergreen presence in a shady spot. In addition, Canadian hemlock tolerates pruning better than most conifers and can be sheared as a hedge. There are many cultivar selections that would make a fine addition to the garden in the right spot.

**Zone:** 3-7

**Resources Consulted:**

Dirr, Michael A. *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants: Their Identification, Ornamental Characteristics, Culture, Propagation and Uses*. Champaign: Stipes, 2009. Print.

Missouri Botanical Garden. Missouri Botanical Garden, n.d. Web. 19 Feb. 2014.

"The PLANTS Database." *USDA, NRCS*. National Plant Data Team, Greensboro, NC 27401-4901 USA, 2014. Web. 19 Feb. 2014.

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**Creation Date:** 2014

**Keywords/Tags:** Pinaceae, tree, conifer, cone, needle, evergreen, *Tsuga canadensis*, Canadian hemlock, eastern hemlock



**Whole plant/Habit:**

- Description: *Tsuga canadensis* has a pyramidal shape accented by soft, layered, feathery branches.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: September 17, 2010
- Image File Name: eastern\_hemlock\_1200212.png

**Bark:**

- Description: The brownish bark is scaly and fissured.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: April 9, 2012
- Image File Name: eastern\_hemlock\_3732.png

**Branch/Twig:**

- Description: The branches of *Tsuga canadensis* are slender with many small lateral branches. They are closely set on the tree creating a fine-textured, layered lacy look.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: October 5, 2010
- Image File Name: eastern\_hemlock\_1210326.png

**Flower:**

- Description: Though not true flowers, the reproductive structures on *Tsuga* are often referred to as such. *Tsuga* is monoecious; producing male pollen cones and separate female seed cones all on the same plant. Male pollen cones are axillary on previous year's growth. The greenish female cones are produced at the tip of previous year's growth.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: April 9, 2012
- Image File Name: eastern\_hemlock\_3734.png



**Cone:**

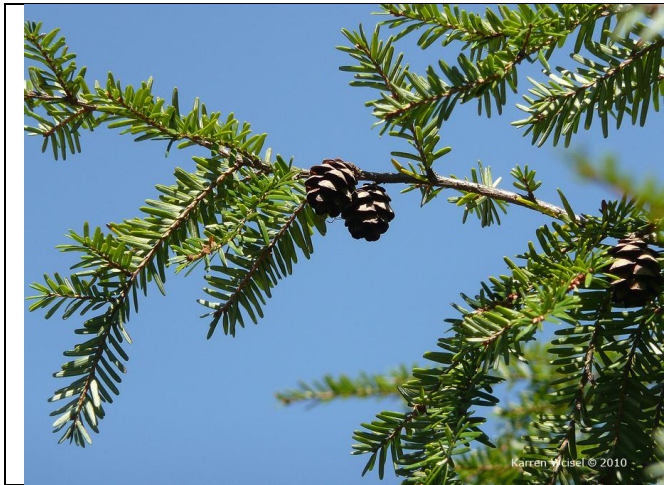
- Description: The small egg-shaped cones are pendulous and generally produced in abundance. Cones change from green to light brown as they mature.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: 2011 - 2012
- Image File Name: eastern\_hemlock\_4591s.png

**Leaf/Leaf Attachment:**

- Description: The short evergreen needles are flat and attached to the stem by a short petiole. They are a rich green on top with distinctive white stomata lines on the bottom.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: February 1, 2011
- Image File Name: eastern\_hemlock\_1250051s.png

**Winter interest:**

- Description: Typical evergreen winter interest.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: February 27, 2011
- Image File Name: eastern\_hemlock\_1260375.png



**Special ID feature(s):**

- Description: The flat, lacy needles and delicate cones are excellent identification features.
- Image Source: Karren Weisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: September 17, 2010
- Image File Name: eastern\_hemlock\_1200211.png