



BRANCHING OUT

An Integrated Pest Management

NEWSLETTER
for Trees and Shrubs

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Thank You to Our Scouts and Diagnosticians

Amy Albam, Carol Bradford, Dawn Dailey O'Brien, Don Gabel, Sandra Jensen, Hillary Jufer, Karen Klingenberg, Elizabeth Lamb, Jen Lerner, Jessica O'Callahan, Zaidee Powers, Alice Raimondo, Mina Vescera, Michael Voss, Sandra Vultaggio

Scouting Report Notations:

- (#) Numbers in regular type note plate(s) in *Insects that Feed on Trees and Shrubs* (2nd edition) by W.T. Johnson and H.H. Lyon.
- (#) Numbers in italics note plate(s) in *Diseases of Trees and Shrubs* (2nd edition) by W.A. Sinclair, H.H. Lyon, and W.T. Johnson.

Scouting Report

Conifers

Eastern Spruce Gall Adelgid (50)—cottony egg mass at bud base on Norway spruce, nymphs should be hatching/dispersing in Rockland Co. Spent galls from 2024 on Norway spruce in Suffolk Co.

Top: old (spent) eastern spruce gall adelgid gall (Riley McKenna); bottom: eastern spruce gall adelgid cottony egg mass (Amy Albam)



Elongate Hemlock Scale (45)—in Rockland Co. Adults present now; no eggs yet in Westchester Co. but should be appearing around late May with crawlers following in June. McClure (1980) noted nymphs on foliage low in nitrogen (which could be due to factors like development stage, fertilization, plant health, etc.) "suffered greater mortality, developed at a slower rate, and ultimately produced fewer progeny than did nymphs feeding on trees with high-nitrogen foliage."

Eriophyid Mites on Conifers (54)—active on hemlocks in Westchester Co.

European Pine Sawfly (2)—larvae on mugo pine in Westchester Co.

European pine sawfly larvae (Hillary Jufer)



Volume 32 No. 3 May 9, 2025

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (32)—mostly eggs but some crawlers active in Rockland Co.



Hemlock with woolly adelgid egg masses and crawlers (black dots on white masses and leaves) (Amy Albam)

Larch Casebearer (11)—damage to foliage in Westchester Co., no larvae present.

Pine Shoot Moth (17 similar)—unidentified species feeding on terminal of mugo pine in Westchester Co.

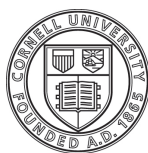
Pine shoot moth larva (Hillary Jufer)



Rodent Feeding Injury—Not all the brown you're seeing out there can be blamed on winter temperature and predisposing drought. Creatures find shelter and food in low-growing evergreens. Check for burrows and



Possible burrow (top) and juniper with rodent feeding injury (Mike Gaines)



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension

areas where bark has been chewed off stems to confirm rodent injury, which results in patches of browning in spreading juniper. Noted in Suffolk Co.

Weir's Cushion Rust (143)—orange blisters on spruce needles in Westchester Co.

"Winter Burn" (244-248)—

brown foliage and dieback on *Cryptomeria* in Bergen Co. (NJ) & Suffolk Co. Reports of similar damage to other conifers and broadleaf evergreens continue to come into the Diagnostic Lab. Severe fall drought likely a factor in many cases. Also noted on arborvitae in Westchester Co.



Winter burn (Don Gabel)

Broad-leaved Trees and Shrubs

Aphids on Azalea—in Rockland Co. These may be *Vesiculaphis caricis*, reported to alternate with sedge and *Kyllinga brevifolia* (in Japan).

Aphids on azalea (Amy Albam)



Azalea Whitefly (151)—nymphs and pupae under leaves in Rockland Co. This insect overwinters as nymphs and adults emerge later in spring.

Black Spot on Rose (39)—in Fairfield Co. (CT)



Black spot on rose (Don Gabel)

Boxwood Leafminer (94)—pupating in Westchester Co.

Boxwood leafminer pupae (Hillary Juffer)



Boxwood Mite (229)—active on boxwood in Westchester Co.

Boxwood Psyllid (137)—in Rockland Co.



Boxwood psyllid nymphs (Dan Gilrein)

Eastern Tent Caterpillar (76)—larvae present in Rockland, Westchester & Suffolk Cos. On black cherry, crabapple in Suffolk. Earliest "tents" observed two weeks ago, too late for last issue. "Tent" nests only made in spring; others observed in summer are from other insects.



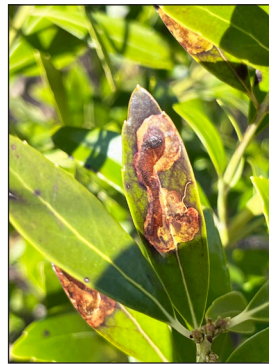
Eastern tent caterpillars and "tent" (Dan Gilrein)

Endothia gyrosa (81)—distinctive sporulation found on orange hobnail canker on European beech in Bergen Co. (NJ). Also occurs on *Acer*, *Ilex*, *Liquidambar*, *Prunus*, *Quercus*, and *Vitis*.



Endothia gyrosa sporulation (Don Gabel)

Holly Leafminer (95 similar)—on inkberry holly in Suffolk Co. *Phytomyza glabricola*, inkberry holly leafminer, makes blotch mines on inkberry with two generations/year. Other leafminers are found on other holly hosts. The small flies should be active as leaves expand in spring. A race or subspecies with one generation is found on gallberry.



Inkberry holly leafminer mines (Mina Vescera)

Hydrangea Leaf-tier—these caterpillars join terminal leaves together and feed within the shelters in spring on *Hydrangea arborescens*,

here on 'Samantha' in Onondaga Co. Excellent photos of their work, the caterpillar and adult moth at <https://bygl.osu.edu/node/1568>

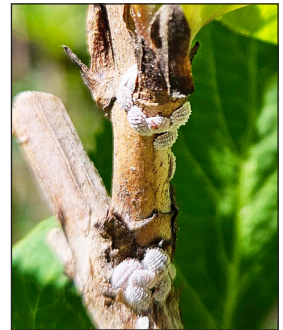
Hydrangea leaf-tier damage (Carol Bradford)

Lily Leaf Beetle—in Rockland, Putnam, & Suffolk Cos.

Lily leaf beetle (Dan Gilrein)



Mealybug—adult females on hydrangea in Rockland Co. Just a few mealybugs reported on this host; these are likely Comstock mealybug with two generations/year in NY. First reported on mulberry and maple in NY in 1918, it has a rather wide host range, occasionally a pest in fruit (apple, pear, peach) orchards and of ornamentals. It's been found feeding on roots of some weeds (evening primrose, smartweed).



Mealybugs (Amy Albam)

Peach Leaf Curl (6)—leaves distorted by *Taphrina deformans* noted in Rockland Co. This disease is active at the very beginning of the growing season: treatments must be made before growth starts in the spring.

Pear Trellis Rust (129-133)—

browning branches in a row of long-established *Juniperus chinensis* in Nassau Co. for 3 years. Odd black outcroppings noted early this spring on stem swellings associated with the dieback. On

Top: pear trellis rust dieback; right: black excrescences (Carla Panetta)



4/27, the homeowner discovered the recognizable telia of pear trellis rust, *Gymnosporangium sabinae*. Galls are perennial and produce bright orange sporulation every year; old sporulation turns black. The affected juniper is likely to be 'Robusta Green', commonly affected by this rust. A neighbor has a pear tree.



Pear trellis rust orange sporulation (Carla Panetta)

Privet Hedge Herbicide Injury—some plants within a hedge showed chlorotic growth after herbicide application to the adjacent lawn in Suffolk Co. The privet will probably recover.



Herbicide injury to privet (Mike Gaines)

Privet Thrips? (208)—silvery markings on leaves resemble privet thrips damage in Rockland Co.



Possible privet thrips damage (Amy Albam)

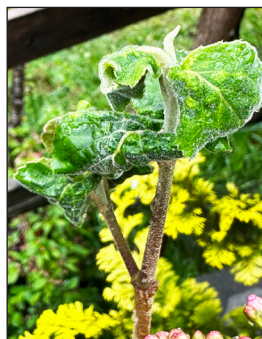
Rhododendron Borer (121)—gallery and dieback on rhododendron in Middlesex Co. (CT). Feeding damage often results in foliage with brown spots or branches dying back. Look for evidence of borer activity



Rhododendron borer damage (Mike Gaines)

on affected branches, and prune out damaged areas now and/or treat after first moths emerge around second week of June, 503-707 GDD. Pheromone traps are available for monitoring moth (male) emergence.

Snowball Aphid (142A)—or related species causing distorted terminal growth on viburnum in Onondaga Co. The native *Neoceruraphis* (*Ceruraphis*) *viburnicola* and the invasive *Ceruraphis eriophori*



Curled foliage damage from snowball aphid or similar (Carol Bradford)

overwinter on several viburnum hosts and can dramatically distort new spring growth. More info and great photos: <https://tinyurl.com/ViburnumAphid1> and <https://tinyurl.com/ViburnumAphid2>

Spongy Moth (61, 62)—first-instar caterpillars in Rockland and Westchester Cos. Controls should be applied soon to minimize defoliation. Bt insecticides can work best against smaller caterpillars; apply when actively feeding. Scan foliage for shotholing and other early signs.

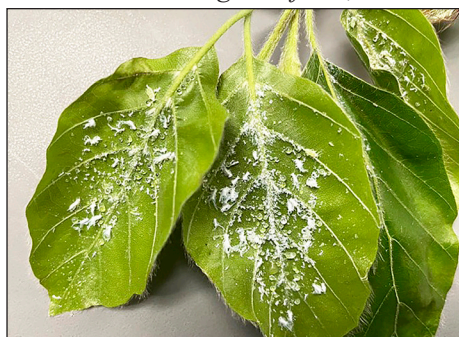
Viburnum Leaf Beetle (104)—young larvae on *V. acerifolium* in Suffolk Co.



Viburnum leaf beetle larva (Michael Voss)

Winter Moth—some areas in Eastern Suffolk Co. may see green "inchworms" causing noticeable defoliation this month. Populations appeared building last fall with reports of numerous moths (males) in some areas. Caterpillars disappear by June.

Woolly Beech Leaf Aphid (140)—under leaves of young European beech in Bergen Co. This aphid doesn't host-alternate. Also recorded from *F. crenata*, *F. orientalis* and *F. grandifolia*, but we've



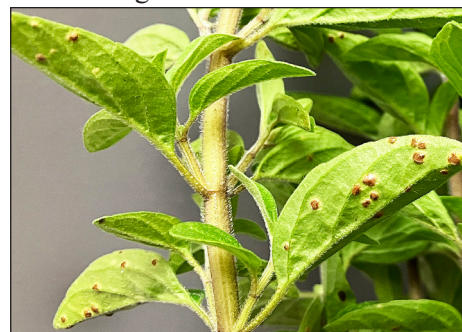
Woolly beech leaf aphids (Dan Gilrein)

only seen it on European beech thus far. Great photos and more info: <https://tinyurl.com/2s4yvucy>

Under the Scope:

Reports from Diagnostic Labs

Rust on Oregano—rust pustules were observed on foliage of Italian oregano (*Origanum x majoricum*) from a nursery this week. This may be mint rust, *Puccinia menthae*. Mint rust apparently has different strains that show some host specificity, so we cannot assume that this rust could go to mint as well.



Urediniospores of a rust on Italian oregano (Margery Daughtrey)

Sudden Death of Japanese Maple. Reported symptoms not characteristic of any known diseases. Trees very healthy last year, very poor or no growth this spring, clinic waiting for physical sample

Verticillium Wilt (120-121)—This Japanese maple showed the tell-tale sign of Verticillium wilt under the bark of a 1/4" diameter branch: black vascular streaking. Most of the tissue pieces we plated are yielding cultures of a Verticillium species; too soon to tell which one.



Black streaking indicates Verticillium wilt, as seen with a dissecting microscope (Margery Daughtrey)

Miscellany

CleanSweepNY in Hudson Valley Region on May 13-16: Free pesticide/chemical disposal for farms, former farms, commercial applicators. Take advantage - must pre-register! Details: <https://tinyurl.com/mumaxuky>

Reminder to NY applicators using Safari, Dinocide, Transtect, Zylam: Applicators using these in NY landscapes, all of which have only certain uses allowed under Special

Branching Out
Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology
Cornell University
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Ithaca, NY 14853

Local Need (SLN) labels, must now annually complete and pass an approved neonicotinoid course and keep a record of the training for three years. Introduction to Neonicotinoid Insecticides, approved by the NYSDEC (NY-25-435354) is at <https://tinyurl.com/NYNeonicCourse>, provides 0.5 pesticide applicator recertification credits in many NY categories (also approved CT, ME, MA, NH, VT), takes ~40 minutes. The course requirement does not apply to uses in agriculture production. SLN labels can be downloaded from <https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/nyspad/products>.

Sign up for *Branching Out* newsfeed: don't miss news on pest updates, workshop opportunities, etc. during the *Branching Out* season, or in the winter. To sign up, email Shari Romar at sr369@cornell.edu and write "Newsfeed" in the subject field.

Phenology by County

Onondaga: saucer magnolia, Norway maple, mahonia, eastern redbud, bridalwreath spirea, birch

Putnam: Norway maple, eastern redbud, flowering dogwood

Rockland: azalea, black cherry, winged euonymus, lilac, oaks, tree peony, sassafras, bridalwreath spirea

Suffolk: Kwanzan cherry, eastern redbud, common lilac, crabapple, autumn olive, Chinese wisteria, Carolina silverbell, dogwood, leatherleaf viburnum, Japanese kerria, beach plum

Tompkins: Callery pear, lilac, eastern redbud, crabapple, dogwood, quince, PJM rhododendron

Westchester: pear, Japanese maple, andromeda, azalea, dogwood, apple, lilac

Dan Gilrein, Karen Snover-Clift, Margery Daughtrey & Shari Romar, editors

Growing Degree Days

As of May 6, 2025

Station	GDD ₅₀	Station	GDD ₅₀
Albany.....	188	Ithaca.....	134
Binghamton.....	145	New Brunswick,NJ.....	335
Boston, MA.....	199	Poughkeepsie.....	238
Bridgeport, CT.....	194	Riverhead.....	239
Buffalo.....	163	Rochester.....	144
Central Park.....	355	Syracuse.....	157
Farmingdale.....	219	Watertown.....	90
Hartford, CT.....	228	Westchester.....	246
		Worcester, MA.....	165

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Thinking Outside the Box: Exceptional Evergreens to Create a Beautiful and Sustainable Landscape

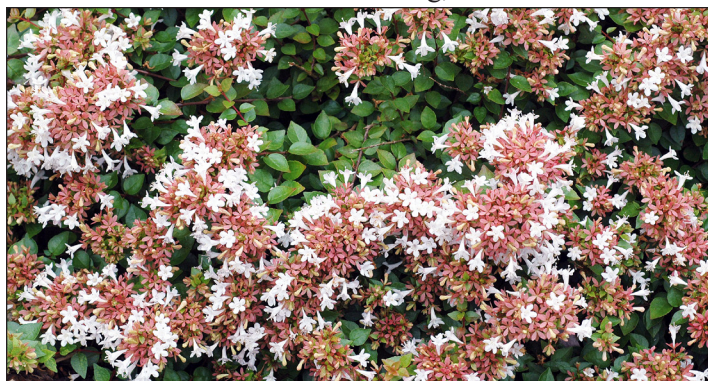
Vincent A. Simeone, Director, Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park (all photos courtesy of the author)

Evergreens provide a strong presence in the landscape while offering a variety of practical functions. Home gardeners and landscape professionals alike are drawn to evergreens because they offer four seasons of interest, privacy, and shelter for wildlife. They are also versatile as single specimens, in groupings, or as foundation plantings to soften open, exposed sites or architectural structures.

While the two main categories of evergreens (needled and broadleaved) are quite different, together they can provide unmatched beauty. Below are some exceptional evergreens that can provide all of these attributes, with several also offering good deer resistance in the landscape. In some cases, the species offered here are quite unique, underutilized and yes, even challenging to find in the nursery trade. But the road less traveled is often worth the effort to create a four-season, resilient and sustainable landscape.

Broadleaved Evergreens

Abelia x grandiflora, glossy abelia, is a well-known flowering shrub that is best categorized as semi-evergreen in the Northeast. But don't let that discourage from using this versatile plant. Although often deciduous, after winter this plant will dazzle you for the other three seasons. It features small, glossy green, pointed leaves, and an abundance of delicate, tubular pale pink flowers blooming in summer until the first hard frost in fall. Abelia is a workhorse and pollinator-friendly. Depending on the species or variety chosen, it can grow as large as 6x8' or as small as 18x24" with a dense arching, or mounded habit.

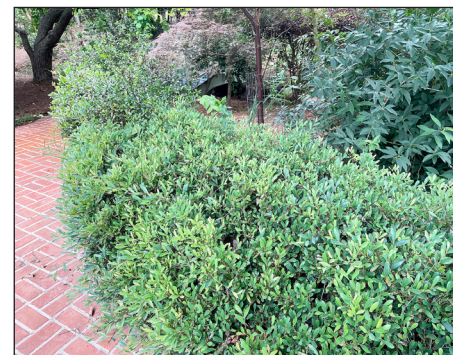


Abelia x grandiflora 'Rose Creek' in flower.

Abelia thrives in sun or shade and prefers moist, well-drained soil but is remarkably adaptable to poor soils. It's also drought, heat, and pest resistant. Ideal in a foundation planting, herbaceous border, hedge or even in a container, and it can be pruned into a formal shape or left natural. Hardy to Zone 6. Check out 'Rose Creek', 'Canyon Creek', 'Golden Fleece', Brilliantina™, Ruby Anniversary®. There are so many cultivars available—buckle up and enjoy the ride!

***Distylium* sp.**, Izu tree, is a dense, evergreen shrub related to witchhazel. It's been gaining in popularity in southern

gardens for about a decade and has made its way up to northern gardens over the past few years. While there are several species that can get quite large, the cultivated varieties and hybrids available typically remain dense and shrubby to 4-5' tall



Distylium as a garden hedge.

x 4-5' plus wide depending on cultivar. With small, deep red, frilly flowers in late winter or early spring, thin, long lustrous evergreen leaves, and spreading, shrubby habit, *Distylium* is a versatile and low-maintenance addition to the landscape.

It's also a rugged, adaptable plant that thrives in moist, well-drained soil and partial shade but will also tolerate less than ideal soils and both dense shade or full sun. *Distylium* is pest resistant, moderately deer resistant, and hardy to Zone 7 and possibly 6 with protection.

Distylium is best as a foundation planting or in a grouping, and is an appropriate replacement for "Skip" Laurel in a shade garden. Several excellent cultivars include Blue Cascade®, Cinnamon Girl®, Coppertone®, 'Vintage Jade' and Emerald Heights® offering more of an upright habit with rich, deep green foliage.

Illicium floridanum, Florida anise-tree, is a durable evergreen shrub with an upright, dense growth habit and reddish-purple, star-shaped flowers in spring. It will grow 6-10' or more in height with a similar spread, and thrives in moist, well-drained, organic soils in partial to full shade (plants exposed to full sun will often turn light green). It is moderately deer resistant.

Florida anise-tree, largely considered an ornamental for southern gardens, will grow in Zones 6 to 9 and is an excellent foliage plant for shade gardens, mass plantings,



Illicium as a screening hedge.

and screens. Check out ‘Woodland Ruby’, ‘Florida Sunshine’ and ‘Swamp Hobbit’.

And a Few Sensational Conifers...

Needled evergreens can be just as effective as their broadleaved counterparts. The fine, soft texture and hues of green, blue and gold can illuminate a landscape, especially in fall and winter. Here are a few tough, adaptable and generally deer-resistant conifers worthy of inclusion in the landscape.

Cupressus arizonica, Arizona cypress, is in the juniper family but has a bit more pop in the landscape. The Southwest native offers striking blue green foliage and is incredibly heat and drought tolerant. The upright, conical habit and interesting round cones add to its appeal.

As durable and adaptable as any juniper, it thrives in very well-drained soil and hot, dry conditions but will tolerate heavy clay soils provided they are well drained. Full sun with plenty of air circulation is ideal—keep this plant away from too much shade and don’t overwater. Once established in a few growing seasons, it will require little to no care. Arizona cypress works well in a garden setting as a specimen, in groupings, or even in large containers, as well as a more naturalistic seashore environment. It is hardy to Zone 6. Check out ‘Blue Ice’, ‘Carolina Sapphire’ and ‘Silver Smoke’.



Cupressus ‘Blue Ice’

Cephalotaxus harringtonia, plum yew, is an exceptionally adaptable and versatile conifer with dark green, needled foliage and various growth habits.

It’s been in the trade for a while and looks very similar to *Taxus*, the popular evergreen yews that are used as specimen trees, clipped hedges, and low-growing foundation plantings throughout the world. But plum yew offers gardeners a few options that *Taxus* cannot: plum yew is more durable, pest resistant, drought/heat/shade tolerant, and most importantly—deer resistant. It is a noticeably slower grower and typically requires much less maintenance than yew.

Several varieties allow gardeners to choose different growth habits from low-growing, prostrate forms to upright, columnar types to mid-level shrubby forms. They can be used instead of *Taxus* for hedges, foundation plantings, groupings, or as a single specimen. Some of the lower growing varieties can also be used on hillsides and slopes as erosion control. Depending on the cultivar, plum yew can range in size from 1-2’ tall or over 8’ with an even wider spread. Look into ‘Duke Gardens’, ‘Fastigiata’, ‘Prostrata’, ‘Korean Gold’ and ‘Golden Dragon’.

Plum yew will tolerate almost any soil type, from rich garden loam to clay, rocky or gravelly soil, as long as it is well drained; it can even grow near the seashore. Best in full sun to partial shade, plum yews will tolerate dense shade.



Cephalotaxus groundcover.

***Arborvitae* sp.** are well-known evergreens used in residential landscapes for many years and valued for its fast growth rate, adaptability and uniform habit. American arborvitae (*Thuja occidentalis*) is very common and somewhat overused for informal hedges, tall screens, and in foundation plantings. Frankly, I’m not a big fan of this species knowing the issues it has in the landscape. However, western arborvitae (*T. plicata*), is a larger scale species and superior in several key areas including deer resistance and better tolerance of snow and ice. It is hardy from Zones 5 to 7.

Western arborvitae offers a loose, pyramidal growth habit and dark green, glossy leaves that are coarser than American arborvitae. It can grow 50’ or more tall x 15-25’ wide, making it an excellent replacement to spruce, fir, Leyland cypress and hemlock. Some recommendations:

‘Green Giant’ with a tight, pyramidal growth habit, grows 30-40’ tall and is used in a wide

variety of landscapes; ‘Junior Giant’ offers a more compact, conical habit and is reported to only reach half the size of ‘Green Giant’ making it suitable for a garden with limited space.

Evergreens are important facets of a well-balanced, diverse landscape. There’s no doubt that with a bit of research and planning, you can be successful in four seasons of interest to your landscape’s functions—creating a most welcoming outdoor living space. Happy Gardening and enjoy!



Thuja plicata



Other Emerging Evergreens Worth Considering...Really Thinking Outside the Box!

Vincent A. Simeone, Director, Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park (all photos courtesy of the author)

Conifers

Abies concolor, white fir or concolor fir, is an exceptional species with long, soft, silvery blue-green, flat needles and a pyramidal growth habit. While this conifer can grow much larger in its native habitat on the West Coast, in the Northeast it typically reach 30-50' tall x 15-20' wide. It is more durable, pest resistant, and heat/drought tolerant than blue spruce and is very effective as an accent plant against dark green foliage plants or as a tall screen.

White fir thrives in moist, well-drained, acidic soil with organic matter so adding compost at planting is beneficial. It will tolerate drier soils with mulching and regular watering during dry periods in summer. Full sun is best for foliage coloration, but partial shade is acceptable. Too much shade will produce leggy plants that lose much of their striking foliage color. White fir, like many conifers, does best if planted in spring. For a screen or informal hedge, spacing should be 12-15' apart.

'Candicans' is one of the bluest forms, with unusually large, powder blue needles. 'Compacta' has striking blue foliage and is a slow-growing dwarf reaching only to 6' tall in 10 years. 'Dwarf Globe' is a very compact form at 3' tall. 'Gable's Weeping' has an irregular, weeping habit that forms dense mounds of growth. It is hardy from Zones 5 to 7.

Calocedrus decurrens, California incense cedar, is a beautiful West Coast native with many of the physical characteristics and landscape uses of arborvitae but is more durable. The narrow, strongly pyramidal growth habit and emerald-green foliage is very striking. The soft, flat, scale-like leaves emit a pungent odor when crushed which might be



Abies concolor



Calocedrus decurrens

a reason why this plant is rather deer resistant. California incense cedar can be used effectively as a single specimen or in groupings as a tall screen. It is a slow grower and can eventually reach 30-50' tall x 8-10' wide.

California incense cedar prefers well-drained, moist soil but once established, is quite drought tolerant with few issues. Full sun or partial shade is preferred, and even windy sites are no problem for this adaptable evergreen. This plant is slowly becoming commercially available and is ideal for a landscape with adequate space. It is hardy from Zones 5-7.

Thujaopsis dolobrata, hiba arborvitae, is a close relative of eastern and western arborvitae but has significantly coarser leaves with bright silver undersides. The pyramidal, upright habit reaching 30-50' tall and graceful, cascading branches offer a strong presence in the landscape. It is ideal as a single specimen or tall screen/informal hedge as long as it has adequate room.



Thujaopsis dolobrata foliage underside

Hiba arborvitae grows best in moist, well-drained soils and full sun or partial shade. Offer protection in very windy sites. It's rather pest/deer resistant and generally low maintenance once established. 'Nana' is compact and at 3-4' tall x about 6' wide is more popular than the species and very effective in shade. Pruning is usually minimal. It is hardy in Zones 5 to 7.



Thujaopsis dolobrata 'Nana'

Broadleaf

Loropetalum chinense, Chinese fringe flower, is a finely textured evergreen shrub with a loose, open form. Due to its spreading habit of horizontally arranged branches, it can function as a screen or a hedge and is effective in foundation plantings, as a backdrop in a shrub border, or as a companion plant to herbaceous perennials.



Loropetalum chinense flowers

The frilly, strap-like flowers are arranged in small clusters along each stem. White, deep pink and nearly red-flowered forms of *Loropetalum* bloom prolifically in early to mid-spring, sometimes continuing sporadically into the summer. Green-leaved varieties have fragrant flowers that are white or yellowish. In general, the red-flowered types are a bit showier than the white-flowering ones; what's more, their leaves are darker green with burgundy, red, or copper tints, depending on the selection.



Loropetalum chinense habit

There is some debate on how large *Loropetalum* can grow and much depends on the variety. On average, it grows 6-12' tall x wide but is often kept much smaller with pruning and is easily trained to formal or informal hedges.

Chinese fringe flower performs best in gardens with lots of heat, and in rich, organic, acidic soil with good drainage but is very adaptable to various soil types. It prefers partial shade but will thrive in full sun with adequate moisture and is drought tolerant once established.

L. chinense var. *rubrum* 'Blush' and 'Burgundy' are red-flowered forms introduced in the early 1990s; since then, we have many new varieties, with recent research focusing on blue-green foliage and improved cold hardiness.

Varieties are currently hardy to Zone 7.

The compact Crimson Fire™ is ideal for a small garden or foundation planting, offering ruby-red leaves and neon pink flowers. Ever Red® has a compact habit with deep, vivid red blooms. 'Zhuzhou Fuchsia' offers blackish-maroon foliage, bright pink flowers, and an upright habit. Ruby Snow™ is a striking cultivar with deep maroon leaves complimented by frilly white flowers. 'Carolina Moonlight' is compact with green leaves and pure white flowers.

Osmanthus heterophyllus, holly osmanthus or false holly, is a tall, spreading shrub or small tree with spiny, holly-like foliage, which is actually related to lilac and forsythia and thus lacks ornamental fruit like true hollies. Foliage is a rich, dark-green and fragrant, small, creamy-white flowers open in the autumn and may persist into early winter.

Holly osmanthus has a shrubby, upright growth habit when young but develops a spreading, rounded habit as it matures. Individual plants can grow 8-20' tall making the species excellent for a hedge or tall screen. It prefers well-drained, acidic soil and full sun or partial shade, but is very tolerant of poor soils, drought, and dense shade. Holly osmanthus has shown good deer resistance.

Selective pruning every few years will keep plants dense and vigorous, and prevents them from looking ungainly over time. Holly osmanthus is not fast growing, so unless you're training it as a formal hedge, significant pruning is often not needed regularly. It is hardy in Zones 6 and 7.



Osmanthus hedge

Some reports indicate invasive characteristics so use the following cultivars that fruit less, if at all. 'Goshiki' has a striking, swirled variegation pattern on the foliage and is effective as an accent or low hedge. 'Gulftide' offers dark-green, glossy, and extremely spiny leaves, and reaches 10-15' at maturity with less of a spread. 'Variegatus' is upright and slow growing with creamy white leaf margins and is effective in partial shade.

Photinia serratifolia, Chinese photinia, is a relatively unknown and hard-to-find plant but is worth the effort for its tremendous landscape potential. Large, lustrous leaves emerge as bronzy-red before turning dark green. In spring it displays large, white, rounded flowers that emit a bit of an odor but are very showy. Large clusters of strawberry-red fruit form in fall and persist until late winter.

Chinese photinia can reach over 15' tall and wide but can easily be pruned into a smaller hedge as well. It can function as a tall screen or specimen in a landscape with

the space and is moderately deer resistant. It's best in well-drained, moist soil and full sun or partial shade, but adaptable to adverse conditions and is low maintenance once established and hardy to Zone 6.



Photina serratifolia flowers and fruit

Prunus lusitanica, Portuguese laurel, is a relatively newcomer to the northern landscape but is slowly establishing itself in the horticultural industry. Closely related to cherry laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*), it is more heat/drought tolerant than its cousin and offers similar aesthetic attributes and function in the landscape. The deep green, lustrous leaves, spikes of white flowers in spring and upright growth habit make this plant a desirable alternative as it can tolerate hot, dry summers. Reliably hardy in Zone 7, but it can grow in zone 6 as well with some protection.



Calocedrus decurrens

Evergreen viburnums offer versatility and function to the landscape with species and varieties deserving attention thanks to superb leaf texture, dense growth habit, and interesting flowers. They are very effective as screens, informal hedges, and in mass plantings. Here are a few considerations suitable for the home landscape:

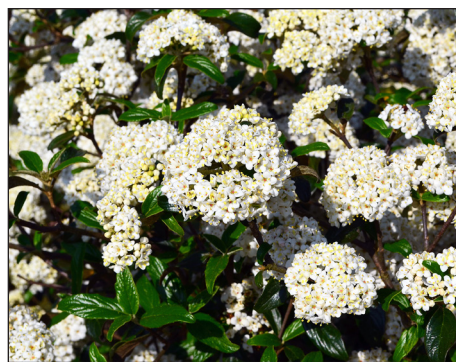
Viburnum x burkwoodii, Burkwood viburnum, offers fragrant, white, rounded flowers in spring and lustrous, dark green leaves most of the year. It grows into an upright, open shrub reaching 8-10' tall x 6-8' wide. Usually evergreen in warmer zones, but it may lose some or all of its leaves during the winter in colder regions.

'Conoy' is dwarf variety (5-6' tall x wide) with glossy leaves that turn maroon in winter, and a dense growth habit. Pearlific® is a stand out in the garden with beautiful, pink-tinged buds in spring opening to an abundance of fragrant white flowers.



Viburnum x burkwoodii 'Conroy' flowers

Viburnum awabuki 'Chindo' is relatively unknown in our area but is making its way to the market. Resembling cherry laurel, this unique evergreen offers thick, dark green, highly glossy, almost rubbery leaves and large, round clusters of white flowers in spring. It has a dense habit, growing 8-10' tall x wide that takes to shearing, and can be used as an informal hedge, screen or foundation planting.



Viburnum Pearlific®; below: 'Chindo' hedge



Full sun or partial shade are best and will tolerate heavy or dry soils once established. It is moderately resistant to deer browsing and hardy to Zone 7.

Evergreen Care and Maintenance Tips

More than any other plant group, evergreens have specific requirements that must be met. Because they retain their foliage all year, evergreens are more vulnerable to adverse environmental conditions and fluctuations in temperature, moisture, and light. A sudden or even gradual change in environmental conditions can negatively affect your prized evergreens, so proper siting of evergreens is critical to ensure their success.

- Protect and nurture evergreens in fall with a light layer of mulch to moderate soil moisture and temperature, reducing the likelihood of major fluctuations.
- Take extra care for plants in exposed, windy areas. In late fall, an evenly applied spray of an antidesiccant to both sides of leaves will create a protective film to hold in moisture and prevent winter burn or sunscald. Do not use antidesiccants on evergreens with colored leaves such as Colorado blue spruce and blue atlas cedar, and always carefully read labels on products before application.
- On smaller plants, use a protective physical barrier such as wrapping plants with burlap and twine—a low cost, effective way to protect valuable shrubs. Remove wrapping in early spring.