

Northern White Cedar

Thuja occidentalis

White cedar is a favored and long-lived wildlife species. You can recognize it by its often twisted trunk, feathery branches, and stringy, fibrous bark. Cedar wood is not very strong, but it's naturally resistant to rot and moisture.. Specialty furniture makers like it because it doesn't warp or shrink much after cutting. White cedar is an excellent deer browse and also supports a variety of other wildlife, including red squirrels, porcupines, and a variety of songbirds.

Height: 20' to 40'

How fast white cedar grows depends a lot on site conditions, but it generally grows about 3 inches per year when young.

Planting environment:

Soil: rich peat in wet areas, or loamy soil in dry areas.

Soil moisture: Moist, but tolerates dry sites. Not very drought tolerant.

Sunlight: Part sun to full sun (needs >4 hours of sun per day)

Can survive in partial shade for a long time. Benefits from some shade in hot weather or droughts.

Plant seedlings 10'-15' apart, or 3' apart for a hedge

Maintenance:

Protect seedlings and saplings from heavy deer browse. White cedar doesn't require a lot of maintenance in normal weather, but if you use it ornamentally you might want to water it in heavy droughts

Top diseases/pests:

1. Carpenter ants
2. Leafminers

