



YARD

Evergreen shrubs for home grounds no. 7.414

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Quick Facts...

All evergreens eventually lose their leaves.

Most broadleaved evergreens grow best in north or east exposures to protect them from winter sun, cold and drying winds.

When selecting evergreens, emphasize soil and site conditions as well as available space.

Overcrowding evergreens will destroy their natural shape and beauty.

Broadleaved evergreens require more constant soil moisture than most narrowleaved evergreens.

Good soil drainage and aeration are essential for optimum growth.

Evergreens add beauty and attractiveness to home landscapes. For practical purposes, evergreens are classified as broadleaved and narrowleaved. Narrowleaved evergreens, such as pines and junipers (red-cedar), have needlelike foliage. Evergreen plants that have wide leaves are known as broadleaved types.

All evergreens eventually lose their leaves. Most broadleaved evergreens retain their foliage for one year, losing the older growth when new growth resumes in the spring. Narrowleaved evergreens can maintain foliage for two years or more but eventually the oldest foliage drops off. Evergreens that are shorn tend to be bare on the inside because the outer growth shades the foliage towards the inside.

Selecting Evergreens

When selecting evergreens for a landscape, consider soil and site conditions before deciding which variety to plant. Nearly all broadleaved evergreens do poorly in Colorado if placed on a south or west exposure due to bright winter sun, cold and drying winds.

See Table 1 for narrowleaved evergreens, and Table 2 for broadleaved evergreens suitable to Colorado.

Broadleaved evergreens do best if located on east or north exposures. As a general rule, broadleaved evergreens require constant soil moisture. The general soil moisture conditions for good plant performance are shown in Table 1. Consider mature growth and proper spacing before planting. If evergreens are planted too close together or too close to a structure, the natural shape and beauty of the plants can be ruined. To determine spacing between plants or distance from structures, divide by one-half the height given in Tables 1 and 2.

Drainage and Soil Conditions

In all cases, good drainage and soil aeration are essential for optimum growth. Where soils tend to be heavy clay, amend them with coarse organic material, such as compost, peat or aged barnyard manure to a minimum depth of 9 inches. It takes about 3 cubic yards of organic material per 1,000 square feet to improve a heavy soil. Thoroughly mix the organic material and soil to avoid layering.

If soil tends to be too sandy, improve its water-holding capacity by adding the amounts of an organic amendment mentioned above.

Table 1: Narrowleaved evergreens for home grounds.

Plant name	Height*	Soil moisture	Exposure	Remarks
Arbor-vitae, Globe				Protect from winter sun and wind.
<i>Thuja occidentalis globosa</i>	3 to 4	M	E	
Juniper, Armstrong Globe	4	D	S	Popular globe form for formal effect.
<i>Juniperus chinensis</i> 'Armstrong'				
Juniper, Pfitzer	8 to 10	DT, D	S	Available in blue and gold-tipped foliage varieties.
<i>J. chinensis pfitzeriana</i>				
Juniper, Sabin	12 to 15	D		Upright, vase-shape.
<i>Juniperus sabin</i>				Green foliage.
Varieties:			S	"Feathery," green foliage.
Broadmoor	2			Foliage bluish-green.
Buffalo	1½			
Tamarix	3½	M		
Pine, Mugo	3 to 8	D	S	Quite variable in size. Dwarf forms available.
<i>Pinus mugo</i>				
Spruce, Maxwell	2 to 3	M	E	Slow-growing. Forms mound twice as broad as high.
<i>Picea abies</i> 'Maxwell'				
Yew, Hick				
<i>Taxus media</i> 'Hicks'	8 to 10	M	S	Soil must be well-drained. Protect from winter sun/wind.
Yew, Japanese Spreading				
<i>Taxus cuspidata densiformis</i>	4 to 5	M		Other vaneties may be available.

Key: S=full sun (open, south or west exposure); DT=exceptionally drought-enduring once established (no more than natural rainfall);

Sh=shade (north exposure); E=east exposure; D=Dry, well-drained soils (2 or 3 waterings per year); M=Moist, well-drained soils (4 to 6 waterings per year)

* To convert to metrics, use the following conversion: 1 foot=30 centimeters or .3 meters.

Table 2: Broadleaved evergreens for home grounds.

Plant name	Height*	Soil moisture	Exposure	Remarks
**Barberry, Mentor	6 to 7	M	E	Spiny. Dark red fruit in fall.
<i>Berberis mentorensis</i>				
Barberry, Wintergreen	5 to 6	M	E	Yellow flowers in May. Bluish fruit in fall.
<i>B. julianae</i>				
Barberry, Warty	3 to 4	M	E	Yellow flowers in May. Makes good ground cover.
<i>B. verruculosa</i>				
Boxwood, Korean	3 to 4	M	E, Sh	Protect from winter sun and wind.
<i>Buxus koreana</i>				
**Cotoneaster, Cranberry	2 to 3	M	E	Large showy red fruit hold on through winter.
<i>Cotoneaster apiculata</i>				
**Cotoneaster, Rock Spray	3 to 4	M	E	Showy, red fruit. Attractive "herringbone" branch pattern.
<i>C. horizontalis</i>				
Cotoneaster, Small-leaved	2 to 3	M	E	Showy white flowers in May. Red fruit in fall. Tiny foliage.
<i>C. microphylla cochleata</i>				
Euonymus, Manhattan	4 to 5	M	E, Sh	
<i>Euonymus kiautschovica (patens)</i>				Needs extra protection from sun/wind in winter.
Euonymus, Sarcoxie	5 to 6	M	E, Sh	
<i>E. fortunei</i> 'Sarcoxie'				Needs extra protection from sun/wind in winter.
Oregon grape	6	M	E	Yellow flowers in May. Bluish, grape-like fruit in summer.
<i>Mahonia ayuifolium</i>				Foliage holly-like.
Oregon grape, Compact	3	M	E	Yellow flowers in May. Bluish, grape-like fruit in summer.
<i>M. aquifolium</i> 'Compacta'				Foliage holly-like.
**Pyracantha (Firethorn)	5 to 6	M	E	Orange-red fruit in fall.
<i>Pyracantha coccinea</i> 'Wyatt'				

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** Semi-evergreen. Leaves may drop off some winters.