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Alaska Cedar

Chamaecyparis nootkatensis



Alaska Cedar
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 35 feet

Spread: 15 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4b

Other Names: Nootka Falsecypress, Yellow Cypress

Description:

A tall, narrow evergreen with pendulous branches, giving an overall graceful appearance; great used in groups or stand alone, prefers drained moist soil

Ornamental Features

Alaska Cedar is primarily valued in the landscape for its distinctively pyramidal habit of growth. It has bluish-green evergreen foliage. The scale-like sprays of foliage remain bluish-green throughout the winter. The shaggy antique red bark adds an interesting dimension to the landscape.

Landscape Attributes

Alaska Cedar is an open evergreen tree with a strong central leader and a distinctive and refined pyramidal form. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance tree. When pruning is necessary, it is recommended to only trim back the new growth of the current season, other than to remove any dieback. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Alaska Cedar is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Vertical Accent



Alaska Cedar foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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Planting & Growing

Alaska Cedar will grow to be about 35 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 15 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 3 feet from the ground, and should not be planted underneath power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 70 years or more.

This tree does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is quite intolerant of urban pollution, therefore inner city or urban streetside plantings are best avoided, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This species is native to parts of North America.