Umbrelliform Yew

Taxus cuspidata 'Umbraculifera'



Umbrelliform Yew
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 7 feet

Spread: 12 feet

Sunlight: ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 4

Description:

A wide-growing evergreen shrub with dense branching covered in narrow foliage that appears in whorls on the branchlets, exposing the gray undersides; spectacular in groupings, a great accent for large spaces, takes pruning extremely well, loves shade

Ornamental Features

Umbrelliform Yew is a dwarf conifer which is primarily valued in the landscape or garden for its ornamental upright and spreading habit of growth. It has attractive dark green foliage with gray undersides which emerges light green in spring. The twisted ferny sprays of foliage are highly ornamental and remain dark green throughout the winter. The fruits are showy red drupes displayed from early to late fall.

Landscape Attributes

Umbrelliform Yew is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and can be pruned at anytime. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Umbrelliform Yew is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Topiary

Planting & Growing

Umbrelliform Yew will grow to be about 7 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 12 feet. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 50 years or more.

This shrub does best in a location that gets morning sunlight but is shaded from the hot afternoon sun, although it will also grow in full shade. Keep it away from hot, dry locations that receive direct afternoon sun or which get reflected sunlight, such as against the south side of a white wall. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments, 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 is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America, and parts of it are known to be toxic to humans and animals, so care should be exercised in planting it around children and pets.