Golden Arborvitae

Thuja occidentalis 'Aurea'

Height: 5 feet

Spread: 5 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4

Other Names: Eastern White Cedar

Description:

An upright columnar evergreen shrub for home landscapes featuring dense dark golden foliage all year long; makes an ideal color accent for the shrub garden, hardy and adaptable, takes pruning well; best with some sun, protect from drying winds



Golden Arborvitae foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Golden Arborvitae is a dwarf conifer which is primarily valued in the landscape or garden for its distinctively pyramidal habit of growth. It has attractive gold evergreen foliage. The scale-like sprays of foliage are highly ornamental and turn yellow in the fall, which persists throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Golden Arborvitae is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a distinctive and refined pyramidal form. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub. 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.

Golden Arborvitae is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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



Golden Arborvitae
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Golden Arborvitae will grow to be about 5 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 5 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 approximately 30 years.

This shrub 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 may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution, 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 selection of a native North American species.