Blue Steel™ Arizona Cypress

Cupressus arizonica 'Midlothian BB'



Blue Steel Arizona Cypress foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 30 feet

Spread: 20 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 5

Description:

A pyramidal, drought tolerant evergreen tree, presenting foliage that is gracefully fine and blue-gray in color; spectacular as a landscape specimen

Ornamental Features

Blue Steel Arizona Cypress is primarily valued in the landscape for its distinctively pyramidal habit of growth. It has attractive silvery blue foliage with hints of gray. The threadlike sprays of foliage are highly ornamental and remain silvery blue throughout the winter. The peeling antique red bark is extremely showy and adds significant winter interest.

Landscape Attributes

Blue Steel Arizona Cypress is an open evergreen tree with a strong central leader and a distinctive and refined pyramidal form. It lends an extremely fine and delicate texture to the landscape composition which can make it a great accent feature on this basis alone.

This is a relatively low maintenance tree, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Blue Steel Arizona Cypress is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Vertical Accent
- Hedges/Screening
- Windbreaks and Shelterbelts

Planting & Growing

Blue Steel Arizona Cypress will grow to be about 30 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 20 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground, and should not be planted underneath power lines. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 60 years or more.

This tree should only be grown in full sunlight. It prefers dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil, and will often die in standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for xeriscaping or the moisture-conserving landscape. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in sandy soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selection of a native North American species.