Dwarf Western Arborvitae

Thuja plicata 'Pumila'



Dwarf Western Arborvitae
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 4 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4

Other Names: Giant Arborvitae, Western Red Cedar

Description:

A real gem of an evergreen shrub, forming a compact egg-shaped mound; features bright golden foliage held over dark green all season, ideal for use as a colorful detail accent in the shrub or rock garden; performs best in moist, humid locations

Ornamental Features

Dwarf Western Arborvitae is a dwarf conifer which is primarily valued in the landscape or garden for its decidedly oval form. It has rich green evergreen foliage. The scale-like sprays of foliage turn an outstanding coppery-bronze in the fall, which persists throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Dwarf Western Arborvitae is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a shapely oval 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.

Dwarf Western Arborvitae is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- General Garden Use

Planting & Growing

Dwarf Western Arborvitae will grow to be about 4 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 4 feet. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front. 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 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.