Shiva Dwarf Whitecedar

Chamaecyparis thyoides 'Shiva'



Shiva Dwarf Whitecedar foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 5 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 5

Other Names: Whitecedar Falsecypress, Atlantic White Cedar

Description:

A great choice for adding texture to a garden, this dwarf shrub has mossy blue-green foliage that is soft and feathery; also used for bonsai; prefers humid environments; tolerant to brief periods of flooding and wet soils

Ornamental Features

Shiva Dwarf Whitecedar 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 bluish-green evergreen foliage which emerges silvery blue in spring. The scale-like sprays of foliage are highly ornamental and turn coppery-bronze in the fall, which persists throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Shiva Dwarf Whitecedar is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. 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 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.

Shiva Dwarf Whitecedar is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Vertical Accent
- Hedges/Screening
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Shiva Dwarf Whitecedar will grow to be about 5 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, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 60 years or more.

This shrub should only be grown in full sunlight. It is quite adaptable, prefering to grow in average to wet conditions, and will even tolerate some standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is particular about its soil conditions, with a strong preference for sandy, acidic soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. 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.

Shiva Dwarf Whitecedar makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.