Elegant Dwarf Japanese Cedar

Cryptomeria japonica 'Elegans Nana'



Elegant Dwarf Japanese Cedar
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 3 feet

Spread: 3 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 5

Description:

A compact mounded shrub in the Cypress family, with drooping evergreen foliage and distinct texture; a spreading habit of growth unlike the species itself, which is a tall tree; foliage is a good blue-green color that bronzes at winter

Ornamental Features

Elegant Dwarf Japanese Cedar is a dwarf conifer which is primarily valued in the garden for its interestingly mounded form. It has attractive bluish-green evergreen foliage. The tiny scale-like sprays of foliage are highly ornamental and turn plum purple in the fall, which persists throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Elegant Dwarf Japanese Cedar is a multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a mounded form. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and should not require much pruning, except when necessary, such as to remove dieback. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Elegant Dwarf Japanese Cedar is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Elegant Dwarf Japanese Cedar will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 3 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 40 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 particular about its soil conditions, with a strong preference for rich, acidic soils, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is quite intolerant of urban pollution, therefore inner city or urban streetside plantings are best avoided, 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.

Elegant Dwarf Japanese Cedar makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its height, it is often used 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.