Elegans Japanese Cedar

Cryptomeria japonica 'Elegans'

Height: 15 feet

Spread: 10 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 6

Description:

A delicate species with fine, almost fuzzy foliage, suitable for use as a large garden or landscape accent; turns brownish in winter and greens up again in spring

Ornamental Features

Elegans Japanese Cedar is a dwarf conifer which is primarily valued in the landscape for its decidedly oval form. It has rich green evergreen foliage. The scale-like sprays of foliage turn antique red in the fall, which persists throughout the winter. The peeling antique red bark adds an interesting dimension to the landscape.

Landscape Attributes

Elegans Japanese Cedar is a multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a shapely oval 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 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.

Elegans Japanese Cedar is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Vertical Accent
- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening



Elegans Japanese Cedar foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Elegans Japanese Cedar
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Elegans Japanese Cedar will grow to be about 15 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 10 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 medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 60 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.