Elf White Pine

Pinus strobus 'Elf'



Elf White Pine
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 8 feet

Spread: 10 feet

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 3

Other Names: Eastern White Pine

Description:

A beautiful compact garden shrub featuring brilliant green new growth that contrasts with the medium size blue-green needles; upright growth with horizontal branches; a fine choice where a colorful compact evergreen is needed in a garden composition

Ornamental Features

Elf White Pine 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 light green in spring. The needles are highly ornamental and remain bluish-green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Elf White Pine is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage.

This shrub will require occasional maintenance and upkeep. When pruning is necessary, it is recommended to only trim back the new growth of the current season, other than to remove any dieback. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Insects
- Disease

Elf White Pine is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Elf White Pine will grow to be about 8 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 slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 50 years or more.

This shrub should only be grown in full sunlight. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist growing conditions, but will not tolerate any standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil type, but has a definite preference for acidic soils, and is subject to chlorosis (yellowing) of the foliage in alkaline soils. 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. This is a selection of a native North American species.