

White Cedar



Tree Type

This tree is an evergreen and will keep its foliage year-around.

Planting

This tree can be planted 3 feet apart for a low maintenance hedge. Newly planted White Cedar are vulnerable to the wind and may need to be staked. Refer to back for best planting practices for your bareroot.

Watering

Keep the soil moist for its first growing season but be careful not to overwater. An established White Cedar will need to be watered over prolonged periods of drought. Refer to watering guidelines on back for specific watering directions.

Pruning

This tree does not require a lot of pruning other than shaping for hedging. If you are to prune, prune in early spring before new growth emerges and trim from the bottom up.

Preferences

Plant White Cedar in an area where it will receive at least 6 hours of direct, unfiltered sunlight a day. It prefers acidic, loamy, moist, rich, sandy, silty loam, well-drained, wet and clay soils.

Attributes

This tree will grow to a height of 30 to 40 ft with a spread of 10 to 15 ft at maturity. It grows at a slow to medium rate, with height increases of anywhere from less than 12 to 24 inches per year. White Cedar grows in a pyramidal shape and adapts well to shearing and shaping. It will yield light brown or reddish-brown oblong cones that are 3/8 to 1.2 inches long and persist through the winter. During the cold months, the leaves changes from bright green to a multitude of rich yellow-brown-greens hues.

Wildlife Value

White Cedar provides shelter and nesting sites for grackles, robins and house finches. It's also browsed by deer, cotton tail rabbits and snowshoe hares. The seeds are eaten by red squirrels and birds such as pine siskins.

When newly planted trees go without enough water, growth slows to a crawl. This delays establishment and may even lead to the death of leaves, branches, roots or the whole tree.

For the most part, trees can only take up water from soil that is in direct contact with roots. Even in the best conditions, newly transplanted trees use water from a relatively small volume of soil. To make matters worse, roots of bare root, balled & burlaped, and spaded trees are cut during transplanting.

Within two to three days after spring or summer planting, the soil around the roots of trees dries enough to impede root growth. Newly transplanted trees in the Midwest benefit from daily watering for the first one to two weeks. Apply 1 to 1½ gallons of water for each inch of trunk diameter. After that, water trees every two to three days for the next two to three months and then weekly until established. The more closely you match your watering frequency to the optimum, the quicker trees become established.

Reduce watering in cool, cloudy, or wet weather if the soil is poorly drained (soil drains less than 3/4 inches per hour). Eliminate daily irrigation in poorly drained soil.

After it rains, stop watering until the rainwater drains from the soil. Stop watering in the autumn once leaves fall from trees.

Mulch reduces evaporation and conserves water. An investment in frequent watering helps insure against tree death and the cost of replanting trees.

BEFORE PLANTING

Select the correct tree for your site.
Find help at mndnr.gov/treecare.

Before digging, contact Gopher State One Call at 800-252-1155 or gopherstateonecall.org to check for underground lines.

AFTER PLANTING

Mulching

Applying mulch, such as wood chips, around a tree has many benefits, including:

- Improving growing conditions
- Retaining moisture
- Controlling weeds and grasses
- Adding nutrients
- Insulating soil
- Protecting trunk and roots

Mulch that is applied too deeply and against the tree is harmful. This "mulch volcano" can rot the tree's trunk, lead to insect and disease problems, and deprive roots of oxygen. Use the "3-3-3 Rule" for applying mulch: 3 feet in diameter, 3 inches deep, and 3 inches away from the trunk.

Watering

Watering a tree is critical to its survival during the first three years. During any week in which less than 1 inch of rain falls, provide 15-25 gallons of water, until the ground freezes. After the first few years, continue to water trees during dry times. Tree water bags may make watering easier.

Protecting

A plastic or metal mesh tree guard can be installed around the tree's trunk to protect it from animal, mower, and trimmer injury. The tree guard must be removed or replaced as the tree grows.

HOW TO PLANT A BAREROOT TREE

- 1 Keep roots moist at all times. Dry roots die.
- 2 Dig a hole twice as wide as and slightly deeper than root length.
- 3 Place roots in hole so top of first woody root is within 1 inch of soil surface.
- 4 Distribute roots evenly, making sure roots are straight and not doubled over or "J" rooted.
- 5 Keeping tree straight, backfill hole up to top of first woody root.
- 6 Heel in soil with foot over entire backfill area to remove air pockets from the soil.
- 7 Water entire backfill area.
- 8 Layer 3 inches of mulch over backfilled area, keeping mulch away from trunk.

DON'T CREATE A MULCH VOLCANO. IT CAN ROT YOUR TREE.