Benjamin Franklin Japanese Cedar

Cryptomeria japonica 'Benjamin Franklin'



Benjamin Franklin Japanese Cedar
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 40 feet

Spread: 15 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 5b

Other Names: Ben Franklin Japanese Cedar

Description:

A stately member of the Cypress family, with drooping evergreen foliage and a spreading pyramidal habit of growth; the species itself is a tall tree; foliage is a good blue-green color that stays consistent all winter

Ornamental Features

Benjamin Franklin Japanese Cedar is primarily valued in the landscape for its distinctively pyramidal habit of growth. It has attractive bluish-green evergreen foliage. The tiny scale-like sprays of foliage are highly ornamental and remain bluish-green throughout the winter. The peeling antique red bark adds an interesting dimension to the landscape.

Landscape Attributes

Benjamin Franklin Japanese Cedar is an evergreen tree with a strong central leader and a distinctive and refined pyramidal form. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance tree. 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.

Benjamin Franklin Japanese Cedar is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Vertical Accent

Planting & Growing

Benjamin Franklin Japanese Cedar will grow to be about 40 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 15 feet. It has a high canopy with a typical clearance of 4 feet from the ground, and should not be planted underneath power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 70 years or more.

This tree 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 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.

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