

Conifers (Evergreens)



Concolor Fir

Concolor (White) Fir (*Abies concolor*)
H 30-70 ft. Open Canopy. Also known as white fir, this dense pyramidal tree is very hardy growing in a variety of well-drained soils. Withstands dryness & heat better than other firs. Soft-rubbery 1.5-3 in. long flat needles, vary in color from pale green or silver to deep blue. Popular landscape & Christmas tree with strong citrus scent.



White Pine

Eastern White Pine (*Pinus strobus*)

H 50-80 ft. Native. Wetland Forest Edge. Fast growing pine. Will tolerate wide variety of soils that are at least moderately well drained. Michigan's state tree. Long, soft needles. Provides wildlife cover & food. Used for windbreaks; be sure to space at least 15 ft apart. Widely used in reforestation.

Northern White-Cedar/American Arborvitae (*Thuja occidentalis* - MI)

(H 40-50 ft. Native. Wetland Forest. Small or medium-sized tree in the Cypress family known as the "tree of life". Moist, boggy areas & is tolerant of both acidic & alkaline soils, but is susceptible to drought. Fan-like branches & scaly leaves that form flat sprays; cone is slender; widely used as ornamental hedge. Full sun. Lumber is prized for resistance to rot & used for fencing & posts, lumber, poles, shingles & construction of log cabins. Wildlife: cover & nesting for birds; seeds are eaten by squirrels & birds; often browsed by deer.



Norway Spruce Cones

Norway Spruce (*Picea abies*)

H 50-70 ft. Upland Forest. Moderately fast growing, transplants well. Grows in well drained, dry, sandy, acidic soils; will tolerate most soils. Reddish tinged bark. Resistant to most pests. Used for reforestation, windbreaks, & wildlife plantings.

White Spruce (*Picea glauca*)

H 40-60 ft. Native. Wetland Forest. Slower growing. Grows well in somewhat acidic moist loam soils, clay; will not grow well in sand. Shade tolerant. Very hardy, endures heat & drought, will retain lower branches except in close stands. Dense pyramidal tree widely used in hedges & windbreaks.



Brockway Beauty Juniper

Brockway Beauty Juniper (*Juniperus horizontalis* - MI) Native shrub. These Junipers will hug ground and grow in the harshest climates. This clone was found on Brockway Mt on the Keweenaw County Fault near Copper Harbor, MI. The windswept plants keep vibrant green colors & vigor throughout the year. Do well except in excessively wet soils - do not put in lawns with sprinklers. Sold in 1 liter containers.

Conifers are well-suited for use in windbreaks (a dense grouping of trees, often situated in several parallel rows, that are planted adjacent to a house, building, roadway, or open land to intercept & slow prevailing winds). By slowing wind speed, windbreaks help conserve energy used in buildings, can provide shade, & reduce damage to crops. Be sure to plant at least 15 ft. from buildings & not under power lines. If you are interested in knowing more about the benefits of windbreaks, native shrubs and NRCS conservation programs contact Jeff Douglas at 269-445-8641 x 3 or Jeff.Douglas@mi.usda.gov

Don't Guess - Soil Test!

Soil testing is important to ensure the areas you plant have the correct pH for the species you're choosing and can indicate if you need any soil amendments. Erez our MAEAP Technician can assist interpreting your test results. Online order a Soil Test Kit self mailer from the MSU Extension Bookstore at bookstore.msue.msu.edu or for a basic \$15 test contact Community Mills here in Cass.

Watch for insects, white powdery masses, dark spots etc. on your plants & trees They may indicate a need for more water or sunlight, the beginning of trouble from an invasive species or simply be part of the circle of life. Remember not all bugs are pests! Plants are often an integral part of a species' lifecycle. Good bugs may also help defend plants by eating other insects, ie. lacewings consume many pests such as aphids & mites.

Michigan DNR Private Lands Program (PLP) has funds for game and non-game species management, ecosystem management and restoration of grasslands, savannas, prairies, forest management and general wildlife and habitat management.

Interested landowners, companies or municipalities can contact SW MI Region Wildlife Biologist **Ken Kesson** at the Crane Pond State Game Area Field Office 60887 State Highway M-40, Jones, MI **269-244-5928**



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