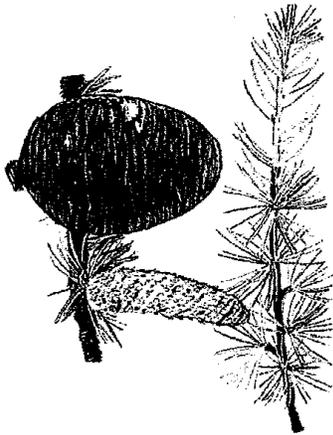


Atlas Cedar

Cedrus atlantica



GENERAL DESCRIPTION: There are three cedars commonly used in landscaping: *C. atlantica*, the Atlas Cedar; *C. deodara*, the Deodar Cedar; and, *C. libani*, the Cedar of Lebanon. Of these the Cedar of Lebanon is the most cold hardy. However, both the Atlas Cedar and the Deodar Cedar are frequently used in landscaping. The Atlas Cedar is noted for its silvery blue foliage, the horizontally extending branches that in the young plant look gauky and the grayish bark make this a favorite plant particularly the cultivar 'pendula' which provides a drapery of hanging branches.

HABIT AND SIZE: As a young tree it is stiff with a prominent central stem and an overall pyramidal form. With age it assumes a more flat topped form with many horizontal branches giving it a layered look. The species can grow to 120' high.

LANDSCAPE VALUE: Best as a large specimen tree in a larger landscape but some of the cultivars, particularly the pendulous forms, are useful in a small garden.

LEAVES: Alternate and single on young shoots but fascicled on spurs on older shoots, 4 side and stiff, thicker than wide with a light green to silvery-blue color.

FLOWERS: Staminate flowers upright, cylindrical, 2" long, terminal on spurs. Pistillate flowers ovoid, purplish, about 0.5" long, consisting of numerous 2 ovuled scales subtended by small bracts.

FRUIT: Erect cone ovoid to ovoid-oblong with wide overlapping scales that disintegrate at maturity. The cones take 2 years to develop and are a waxy green when young maturing to light brown. The seeds have large membranous wings.

BUD: On spur branches short and inconspicuous.

DISEASES AND INSECTS: Tip blight, root rots, black scale and Deodar weevil.

HARDINESS AND RANGE: Zones 6-9. Atlas mountains of northwest Africa.

CULTIVARS: 'Glauca Pendula'- a true weeping form, 'Argenta'- best of blue green types, 'Fastigiata'- upright form.