

**Canadian Hemlock**

*Tsuga canadensis*



**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** The hemlock is one of the most graceful of the conifers because of its straight tapering trunk, loose pyramidal habit, somewhat pendulous branches, and dark green needles. Overall it gives a stately informal look. Hemlock is also tolerant of some shade and moist soils. As a landscape plant it has been successfully used to create tall hedges and screens, as a background planting in larger landscapes and as a specimen tree. With some of the smaller and more pendulous cultivars, it has been used in smaller landscapes as either an accent or a focal point. One cultivar in particular, 'Sargentii', is a spectacular large pendulous shrub that can be used as a specimen.

**HABIT AND SIZE:** 40-70' high and 25-40' wide (can grow to over 100') with a pyramidal outline that is softened by the slightly pendulous nature of the smaller branches. As the tree gets larger the habit becomes more open but still pyramidal in shape.

**LANDSCAPE VALUE:** Excellent for tall hedges and screens, as a background planting in larger landscapes and as a specimen tree. With some of the smaller and more pendulous cultivars, it has been used in smaller landscapes as either an accent or a focal point.

**LEAVES:** Aligned on the stem in 2 ranks, the deep green leaves are 0.25-0.67" long and one third as wide, somewhat grooved, linear, obtuse or acute at the tip. The underside has 2 whitish bands. The margins are toothed and there is a short petiole.

**FLOWERS:** Staminate flowers solitary in the leaf axils with numerous anthers that have gland-like tips.

**FRUIT:** Ovoid cones 0.5-0.75" long, on slender stalks the scales nearly circular and smooth.

**BUD:** Minute, round, with light brown hairy scales.

**DISEASES AND INSECTS:** Wooley adelgid insect is devastating native population.

**HARDINESS AND RANGE:** Zones 3-7. Nova Scotia to Minn. south to Ala. and Ga.

**CULTIVARS:** 'Sargentii'- one of the best weeping evergreens