

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