Homestead Gardens Plant Finder

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Fire Chief™ Arborvitae

Thuja occidentalis 'Congabe'



Fire Chief Arborvitae
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 5 feet

Spread: 5 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 3a

Other Names: Eastern White Cedar

Description:

A distinctive landscape evergreen for color effect, featuring showy reddish foliage at the tips when grown in full sun; tends to be more greenish-orange when shaded; excellent for color accent use in home gardens and landscapes; protect from drying winds

Ornamental Features

Fire Chief Arborvitae is a dwarf conifer which is primarily valued in the landscape or garden for its ornamental globe-shaped form. It has attractive antique red-tipped green foliage which emerges red in spring. The sprays of foliage are highly ornamental and remain green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Fire Chief Arborvitae is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a more or less rounded form. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub. 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.

Fire Chief Arborvitae is recommended for the following landscape applications;



Fire Chief Arborvitae foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use

Planting & Growing

Fire Chief Arborvitae will grow to be about 5 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 5 feet. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 30 years.



Fire Chief Arborvitae
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

This shrub 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 not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution, 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 selection of a native North American species.