Commonly Planted Evergreens in Lander County

Guidelines for Selection
Rodney L. Davis, Extension Educator

Arborvitae

Reasons to plant- They are a small to moderately sized evergreen. Adapted to most sites. A wide variety of shapes and sizes are available.

Reasons to avoid- Most varieties are subject to sunscald and windburn. Wind protection will greatly enhance appearance and survivability.

Firs

Reasons to plant- They are very attractive large, dense evergreens. They add variety to a neighborhood and landscape.

Reasons to avoid- They require well drained loamy soil and can be difficult to establish. They are generally more sensitive to site and soils than pines and spruces. Needles may burn in low humidity.

Pines

Reasons to plant- As an evergreen they provide year-round shade and wind protection if not pruned up. Great drought resistance once established.

Reasons to avoid- Canopy is less dense than spruces and firs. They generally require good drainage and struggle in heavy clay soils. Over watering can create health problems. May need wind protection during establishment (two years). Some species suffer from borers and resulting diseases. Check with your local Cooperative Extension Educator or other knowledgeable individual for species recommendations.

Spruces

Reasons to plant- They are extremely attractive evergreens with dense canopies. Few insect or disease problems of consequence if properly maintained. A variety of needle colors is available.

Reasons to avoid- Often times they outgrow the space allotted them. They loose much of their beauty when pruned up. Not for planting on street corners where branches can obscure view of motorists. Tend to blow over in high winds. They need more water than pines. Require wind protection during establishment.

Upright Junipers

Reasons to plant- There are a wide variety of shapes, sizes and needle colors available. Avoid twig blight susceptible cultivars where the foliage will be wet by sprinklers. They are very drought resistant and adapted to a very wide range of soil types and environmental conditions.

Reasons to avoid- Some cultivars loose their chlorophyll in the winter and appear dingy or brown.

Colorado Blue Spruce
### Commonly Planted Evergreens*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Life Expectancy</th>
<th>Maintenance</th>
<th>Growth Rate</th>
<th>Disease Resistance</th>
<th>Insect Resistance</th>
<th>Salt Tolerance</th>
<th>Alkali Tolerance (High pH)</th>
<th>Drought Tolerance</th>
<th>Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arborvitae</td>
<td>Thuja occidentalis</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Slow</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pines</td>
<td>Pinus ponderosa</td>
<td>All medium/long</td>
<td>All low</td>
<td>All medium</td>
<td>All medium/low</td>
<td>All medium/low</td>
<td>All high</td>
<td>All high</td>
<td>Large</td>
<td>Large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spruces</td>
<td>Picea pungens var glauca pungens</td>
<td>All long</td>
<td>All low</td>
<td>All medium</td>
<td>All medium</td>
<td>All medium</td>
<td>All medium</td>
<td>All medium</td>
<td>All low</td>
<td>All large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upright Junipers Eastern Red Cedar Rocky Mt</td>
<td>Juniperus virginiana scopulorum</td>
<td>All long</td>
<td>All low</td>
<td>All low</td>
<td>All medium</td>
<td>All medium</td>
<td>All high</td>
<td>All high</td>
<td>All large</td>
<td>Wide range depending on cultivar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*This list is not intended to be exclusive. Other choices may survive in specific micro-climates.

### Less Commonly Planted Trees Worth Considering

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Firs White</th>
<th>Abies concolor</th>
<th>Long</th>
<th>Low</th>
<th>Medium</th>
<th>Medium</th>
<th>Medium</th>
<th>High</th>
<th>Medium/low</th>
<th>Low</th>
<th>Large</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pines</td>
<td>Pinus aristata sylvestris</td>
<td>All medium/long</td>
<td>All low</td>
<td>All medium</td>
<td>All medium</td>
<td>All medium/low</td>
<td>All high</td>
<td>All high</td>
<td>Large</td>
<td>Large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spruces</td>
<td>Picea engelmannii abies glauca</td>
<td>All long</td>
<td>All low</td>
<td>All medium</td>
<td>All medium</td>
<td>All low</td>
<td>All medium/low</td>
<td>All high</td>
<td>All medium/low</td>
<td>All large</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Fact Sheet References

- Cox, Klett, Trees & Shrubs, Evergreen Trees, CSU Gardening Series #7.403, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Co.
- Johnson, Balliette, Hardy, Drought Tolerant and Moderately Salt Tolerant Trees for Northern Nevada, Nevada Cooperative Extension Fact Sheet #88-73.

*Graphics and Layout by Barb Richardson
*Photos by Wayne Johnson*