



***Juniperus chinensis* 'Torulosa' 'Torulosa' Juniper¹**

Edward F. Gilman and Dennis G. Watson²

INTRODUCTION

Torulosa Juniper grows into a narrow cone shape when young, then opens up as the plant ages (Fig. 1). Although the main body of its foliage is as thick as if it had been sheared, delicately twisted, upright branches emerge gracefully all around the plant, in almost a flame-like manner. It may grow to 15 feet tall in 15 years, perhaps leaning to one side in a picturesque manner. Do not expect a row of them to provide a uniform shape since crown form varies.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Scientific name: *Juniperus chinensis* 'Torulosa'

Pronunciation: joo-NIP-er-us chih-NEN-sis

Common name(s): 'Torulosa' Juniper

Family: Cupressaceae

USDA hardiness zones: 5B through 11 (Fig. 2)

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: container or above-ground planter; espalier; recommended for buffer strips around parking lots or for median strip plantings in the highway; screen; specimen; no proven urban tolerance

Availability: generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

DESCRIPTION

Height: 10 to 15 feet

Spread: 6 to 10 feet

Crown uniformity: irregular outline or silhouette

Crown shape: pyramidal; upright

Crown density: open

Growth rate: medium

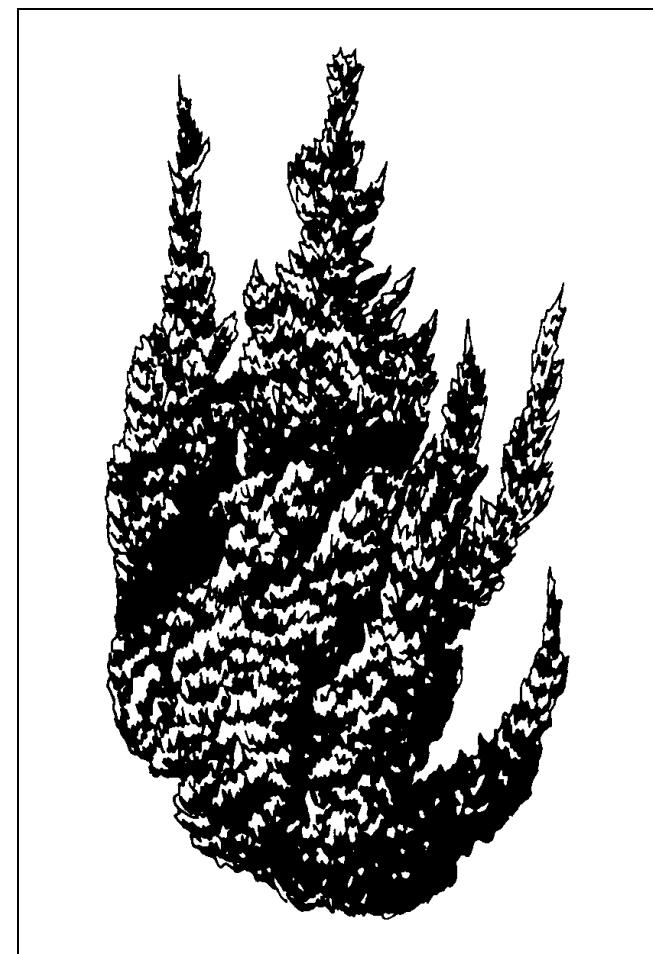


Figure 1. Middle-aged 'Torulosa' Juniper.

Texture: fine

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: opposite/subopposite

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: entire

Leaf shape: scale-like

Leaf venation: none, or difficult to see

Leaf type and persistence: evergreen; fragrant

Leaf blade length: less than 2 inches

Leaf color: green

Fall color: no fall color change

Fall characteristic: not showy

Flower

Flower color: brown; green; yellow

Flower characteristics: inconspicuous and not showy

Fruit

Fruit shape: oval; round

Fruit length: < .5 inch

Fruit covering: dry or hard

Fruit color: blue

Fruit characteristics: does not attract wildlife; inconspicuous and not showy; no significant litter problem

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: routinely grown with, or trainable to be grown with, multiple trunks; grow mostly upright and will not droop; not particularly showy; no thorns

Pruning requirement: needs little pruning to develop a strong structure

Breakage: resistant

Current year twig color: green

Current year twig thickness: thin

Culture

Light requirement: tree grows in part shade/part sun; tree grows in full sun

Soil tolerances: clay; loam; sand; acidic; alkaline; well-drained

Drought tolerance: high

Aerosol salt tolerance: high

Soil salt tolerance: good

Other

Roots: surface roots are usually not a problem
Winter interest: no special winter interest
Outstanding tree: not particularly outstanding
Invasive potential: little, if any, potential at this time
Verticillium wilt susceptibility: not known to be susceptible
Pest resistance: long-term health usually not affected by pests

USE AND MANAGEMENT

Torulosa Juniper develops into a showcase specimen without pruning and is probably best used for this purpose. Planted on four to six-foot centers, it can develop into a thick screen which could be useful along a driveway, where a narrow, bright green screen is often needed to create privacy.

Growing best in full sun, more open in partial shade, Torulosa Juniper needs well-drained soil or it will decline from root rot. It tolerates alkaline soil and is quite drought-tolerant but root regeneration is slow after transplanting from a field nursery. It is frequently offered in containers from a nursery.

Torulosa Juniper can be propagated by cuttings.

Pests

Mites and bagworms can infest the foliage.

Diseases

Torulosa Juniper is susceptible to root rot and bacterial blight.