



Cedrus libani Cedar-of-Lebanon¹

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INTRODUCTION

This is a large stately evergreen, with a massive trunk when mature, and wide-sweeping, sometimes upright branches (more often horizontal) which originate on the lower trunk (Fig. 1). Allow plenty of space for proper development. Dark green needles and cones, which are held upright above the foliage, add to the impressive appearance. Young specimens retain a pyramidal shape but the tree takes on a more open form with age. Like most true cedars, it does not like to be transplanted, and prefers a pollution-free, sunny environment.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Scientific name: *Cedrus libani*

Pronunciation: SEE-drus LIB-an-eye

Common name(s): Cedar-of-Lebanon

Family: *Pinaceae*

USDA hardiness zones: 5B through 10A (Fig. 2)

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: wide tree lawns (>6 feet wide); recommended for buffer strips around parking lots or for median strip plantings in the highway; specimen; residential street tree

Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the tree

DESCRIPTION

Height: 40 to 50 feet

Spread: 20 to 30 feet

Crown uniformity: irregular outline or silhouette

Crown shape: pyramidal

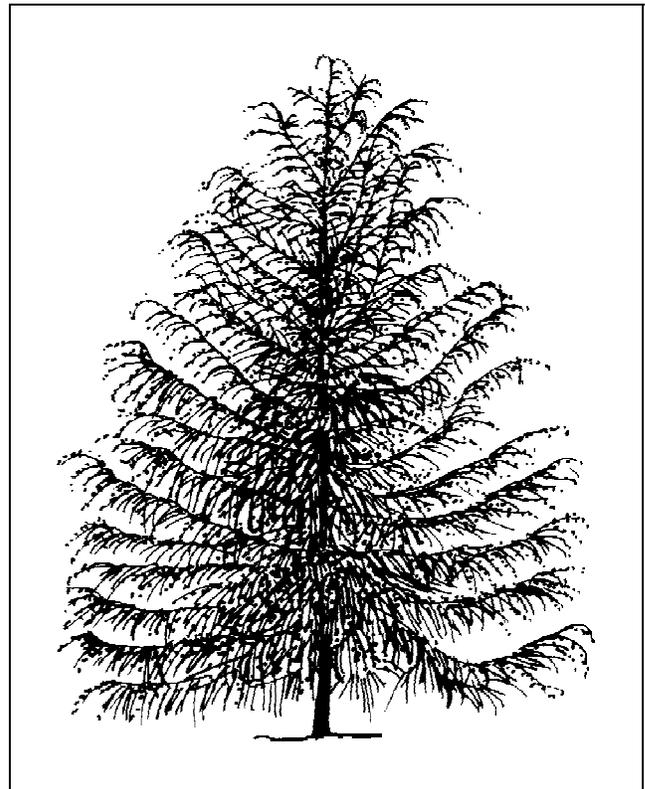


Figure 1. Middle-aged Cedar-of-Lebanon.

Crown density: open

Growth rate: slow

Texture: medium

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: spiral (Fig. 3)

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: entire

Leaf shape: needle-like (filiform)

Leaf venation: parallel

Leaf type and persistence: evergreen; needle leaf evergreen

Leaf blade length: less than 2 inches

Leaf color: green

Fall color: no fall color change

Fall characteristic: not showy

Flower

Flower color: brown; purple

Flower characteristics: inconspicuous and not showy

Fruit

Fruit shape: oval

Fruit length: 3 to 6 inches

Fruit covering: dry or hard

Fruit color: blue; green

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

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: droop as the tree grows, and will require pruning for vehicular or pedestrian clearance beneath the canopy; not particularly showy; should be grown with a single leader; no thorns

Pruning requirement: needs little pruning to develop a strong structure

Breakage: resistant

Current year twig color: brown; green

Current year twig thickness: medium

Culture

Light requirement: tree grows in full sun

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

Drought tolerance: high

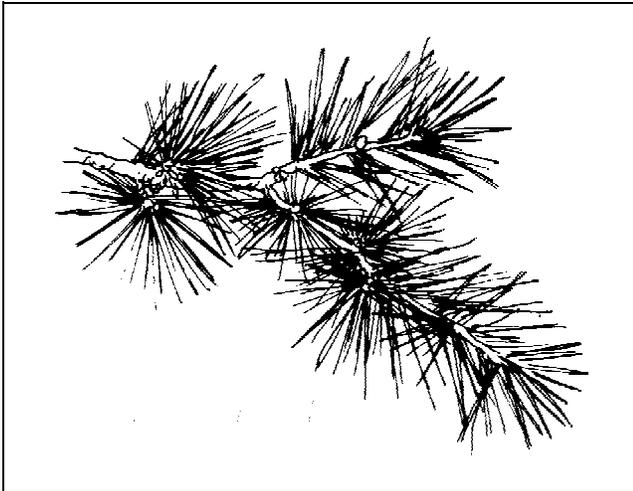


Figure 3. Foliage of Cedar-of-Lebanon.

Other

Roots: surface roots are usually not a problem

Winter interest: no special winter interest

Outstanding tree: tree has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more

Invasive potential: little, if any, potential at this time

Verticillium wilt susceptibility: not known to be susceptible

Pest resistance: no pests are normally seen on the tree

USE AND MANAGEMENT

Cedars are not well-suited for street tree planting in downtown situations, but are unrivaled as specimens, even for hot, dry locations. There are examples of residential street tree plantings on 20-foot-centers which look rather striking. Adapted to high pH and dry soil.

Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern.