



Cedrus deodara Deodar Cedar¹

Edward F. Gilman and Dennis G. Watson²

INTRODUCTION

With its pyramidal shape, soft grayish-green (or blue) needles and drooping branches, this cedar makes a graceful specimen or accent tree (Fig. 1). Growing rapidly to 40 to 50 feet tall and 20 to 30 feet wide, it also works well as a soft screen. The trunk stays fairly straight with lateral branches nearly horizontal and drooping. Lower branches should be left on the tree so the true form of the tree can show. Allow plenty of room for these to spread. They are best located as a lawn specimen away from walks, streets, and sidewalks so branches will not have to be pruned. Large specimens have trunks almost three feet in diameter and spread to 50 feet across.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Scientific name: *Cedrus deodara*

Pronunciation: SEE-drus dee-oh-DAR-uh

Common name(s): Deodar Cedar

Family: *Pinaceae*

USDA hardiness zones: 7 through 9A (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; screen; specimen; residential street tree

Availability: generally available in many areas within its hardiness range



Figure 1. Young Deodar Cedar.

DESCRIPTION

Height: 40 to 60 feet

Spread: 20 to 30 feet

Crown uniformity: symmetrical canopy with a regular (or smooth) outline, and individuals have more

1. This document is adapted from Fact Sheet ST-134, a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Publication date: November 1993.
2. Edward F. Gilman, associate professor, Environmental Horticulture Department; Dennis G. Watson, associate professor, Agricultural Engineering Department, Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville FL 32611.



Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

or less identical crown forms

Crown shape: pyramidal

Crown density: moderate

Growth rate: fast

Texture: fine

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; silver

Fall color: no fall color change

Fall characteristic: not showy

Flower

Flower characteristics: inconspicuous and not showy; spring flowering

Fruit

Fruit shape: oval

Fruit length: 3 to 6 inches

Fruit covering: dry or hard

Fruit color: brown

Fruit characteristics: does not attract wildlife; no significant litter problem; persistent on the tree; 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; slightly alkaline; acidic; occasionally wet; well-drained

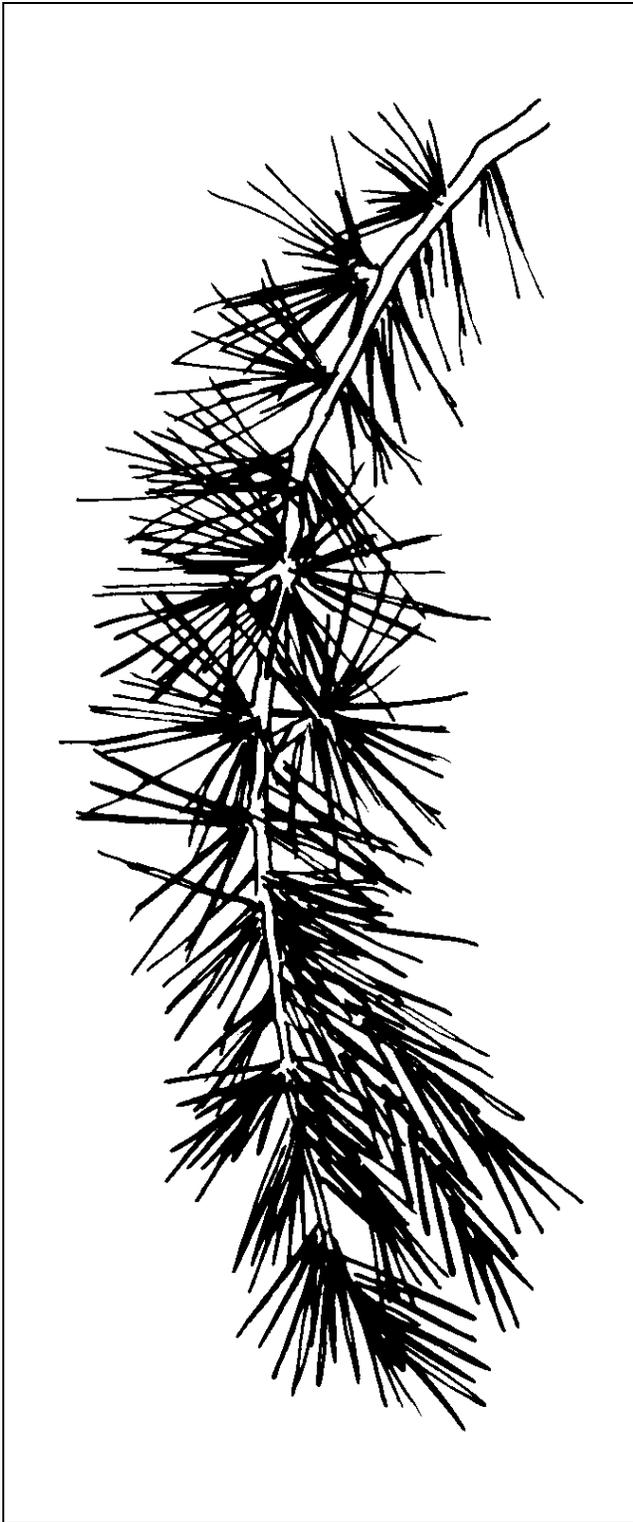


Figure 3. Foliage of Deodar Cedar.

Drought tolerance: high

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: long-term health usually not affected by pests

USE AND MANAGEMENT

The tree has been successfully used as a street or median planting with lower branches removed. It appears to tolerate compacted, poor soil but declines in areas where smog is a problem. Plant on 20-foot-centers to create a canopy of blue foliage over a small residential street. This is probably the best true cedar for the South.

Transplants easily if root-pruned or from a container and protected from sweeping winds. It does well in dry, sunny spots and will tolerate high pH and clay soil. Cold-damaged trees die back at the top.

There are numerous attractive cultivars. 'Kashmir' has silvery foliage and is hardy in USDA hardiness zone 6; 'Aurea' has yellow leaves (looks ill); 'Pendula' has long, drooping leaves; 'Robusta' has stiffer twigs.

Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern. Perhaps scales, borers, deodar weevils, and bagworms. Following a cold winter, tops often decline and dieback in USDA hardiness zone 7. Secondary fungi can sometimes be associated with this decline.