Fairy Lights Arborvitae

Thuja occidentalis 'Fairy Lights'



Fairy Lights Arborvitae foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 12 feet

Spread: 3 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 2b

Other Names: Eastern White Cedar

Description:

A characteristically narrowly and spire-like evergreen for home landscape use, dense foliage appears dusted with golden-yellow new foliage; makes a stunning vertical accent, hardy and adaptable, takes pruning well; best with some sun

Ornamental Features

Fairy Lights Arborvitae is primarily valued in the landscape or garden for its rigidly columnar form. It has gold-tipped forest green foliage which emerges yellow in spring. The scale-like sprays of foliage remain forest green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Fairy Lights Arborvitae is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen tree with a narrowly upright and columnar growth habit. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance tree. 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.

Fairy Lights Arborvitae is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Vertical Accent
- Hedges/Screening

Planting & Growing

Fairy Lights Arborvitae will grow to be about 12 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 3 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 50 years or more.

This tree 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 may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. 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.