California Incense Cedar

Calocedrus decurrens

Height: 60 feet

Spread: 12 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4b

Other Names: Incensecedar

Description:

A wonderfully formal looking evergreen with a very upright and narrow habit of growth, both distinctive and beautiful, adaptable to many conditions but does best in areas of high humidity; use as an exclamation point or for a tall screening wall



California Incense Cedar
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

California Incense Cedar is primarily valued in the landscape for its rigidly columnar form. It has dark green evergreen foliage. The fragrant fan-shaped sprays of foliage remain dark green throughout the winter.



California Incense Cedar foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

California Incense Cedar is an evergreen tree with a narrowly upright and columnar growth habit. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance tree, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It has no significant negative characteristics.

California Incense Cedar is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Vertical Accent
- Hedges/Screening

Planting & Growing

California Incense Cedar will grow to be about 60 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 12 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground, and should not be planted underneath power lines. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live to a ripe old age of 100 years or more; think of this as a heritage tree for future generations!

This tree does best in full sun to partial shade. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist locations, and should do just fine under average home landscape conditions. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in poor soils. It is quite intolerant of urban pollution, therefore inner city or urban streetside plantings are best avoided. This species is native to parts of North America.



California Incense Cedar
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder