



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.
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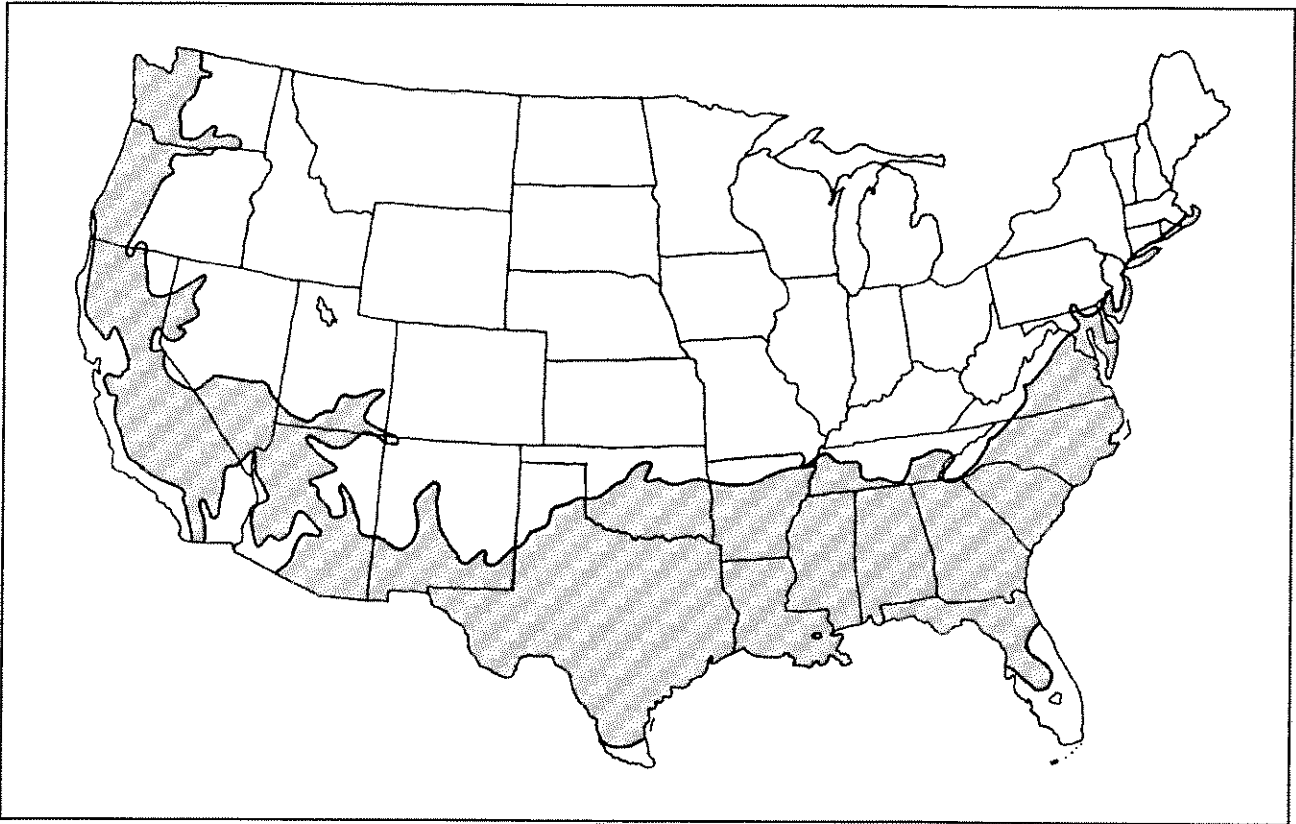


Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

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

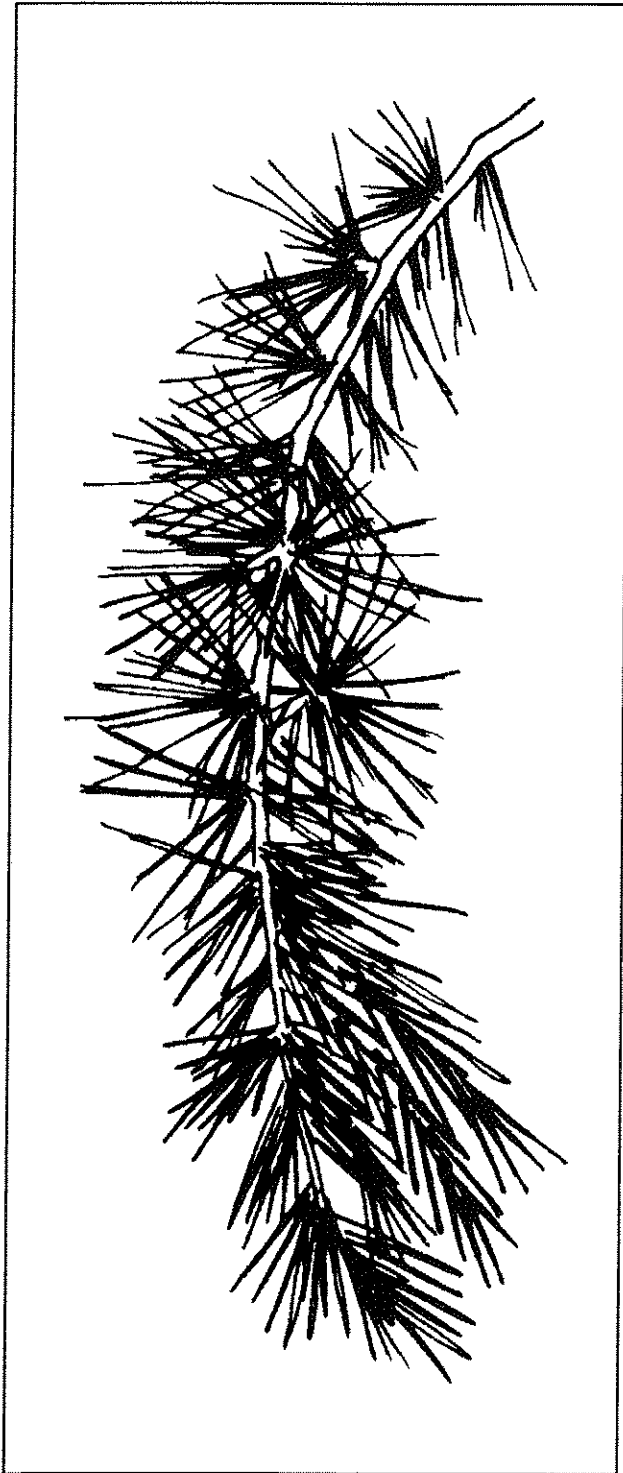


Figure 3. Foliage of Deodar Cedar.

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.

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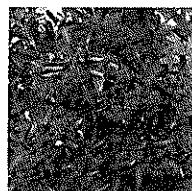
Cedar Deodar

Cedrus deodara

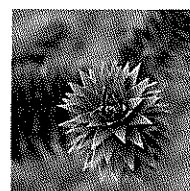
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Huge Ornamental Tree for Any Landscape

Cedar Deodar (*Cedrus deodara*) is an evergreen tree that can reach 70 feet high and 20 to 40 feet wide.

Today it is a popular landscape specimen that **provides year-round interest with its attractive pyramid shape and lovely green-silver color.**

Cedar Deodar trees thrive in a variety of moist, well-drained soils including:

- Loam
- Sand
- Clay

It is also **tolerant to drought** and prefers a location that provides full sun.

This tree is fairly **fast growing**, making it an excellent choice for a windbreak or for **privacy** on your property.

Graceful branches sweep toward the ground and then up. Two-inch **long whorled needles give this tree a softer look.** These needles drop in the spring, allowing for new growth.

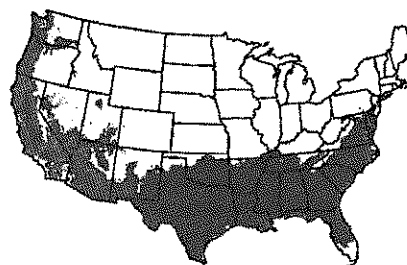
Male trees produce catkins that hold copious amounts pollen, which is spread in the early spring. Female trees have 3-5 inch egg-shaped cones that shatter, releasing the trees seeds.

This tree lives a long time, requires little pruning, if any, and is relatively free from health issues, so once planted, it will provide **maintenance-free beauty** for generations.

Cedar Deodar makes a stunning focal point when three to five trees are clustered in a large, open area. Put them near the back of your property so you can enjoy the full effect from your window.

🌲 Growing Zones: 7-9

(hardy down to 10°F)

You are in Growing Zone: **10**

Mature Height: up to 70 ft.

Mature Width: 20-40 ft.

Sunlight: Full Sun

Spacing: 1-2 ft

Growth Rate: Fast

Drought Tolerance: Great

Botanical Name: *Cedrus deodara*

Does Not Ship To: AZ



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Trees & Shrubs

Deodar Cedar Growing Profile

Cedrus deodara

BY VANESSA RICHINS MYERS | Updated 04/04/17



Leonie Lambert/Photolibary/Getty Images



- **Latin Name:** This tree is classified as *Cedrus deodara* and is one of the real cedars. Other true cedars include the cedar of Lebanon (*Cedrus libani*) and the Atlas cedar (*Cedrus atlantica*), which comes in a weeping form. It is in the Pinaceae family which includes both evergreen and deciduous conifers like pine trees, spruce trees, and fir trees.
- **Common Names:** This species is known as the Deodar cedar, deodar, and the Himalayan cedar. The name deodar evolved from the word devadāru, which is a Sanskrit word that translates to "timber of the gods". This tree is sacred in Hinduism.
- **Preferred USDA Hardiness Zones:** Deodar cedar can be planted in USDA Zones 7-9. If you live in Zone 6, look for cultivars like 'Kashmir', 'Shalimar' and 'Polar Winter' since these are able to withstand cooler temperatures. Its native region is the Himalayas.
- **Size & Shape:** In home gardens, the Deodar cedar will usually be 40-70' tall and 20-40' wide.

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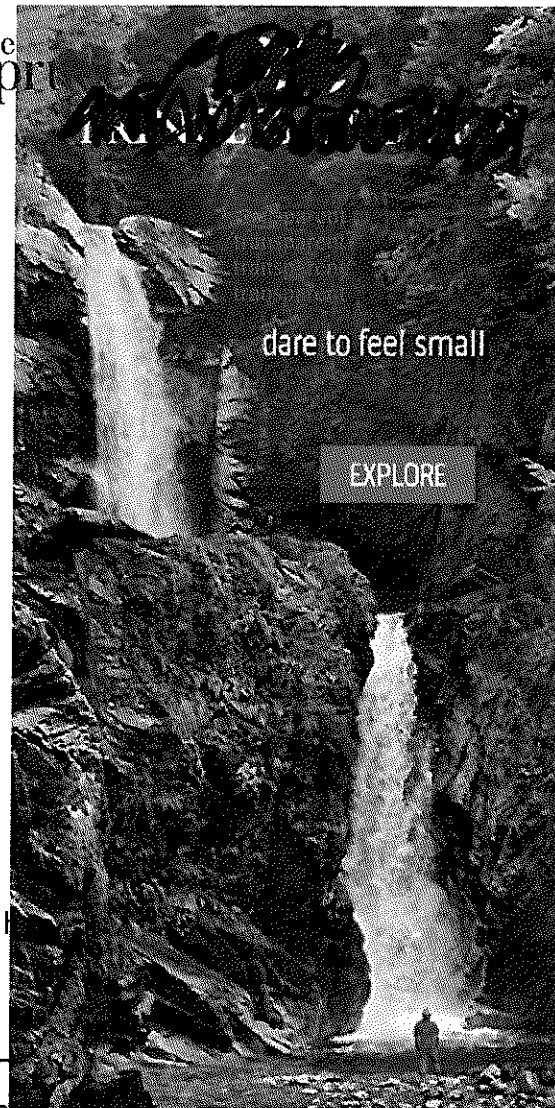
Foliage/Flowers/Fruit

Each needle on this conifer is 1-2" long and can be bluish-green or grayish-green depending on the cultivar. They are produced in whorls of 20-30 needles.

They also appear individually on long shoots.

This is a monoecious species that will have both male cones and female cones present on the same tree.

The fruit is a cone that will be reddish-brown when mature. It will eventually break apart to allow the seeds to disperse.



Design Tips

This conifer is able to withstand some drought after a period of root establishment.

If you would like a tree with golden needles, choose the 'Aurea' cultivar. For an enhanced weeping effect, look for the 'Pendula' cultivar.

You can use this as a street tree if you limb up the branches so there is clearance above cars in the street and adjoining walkways.

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Seeds are commonly used to start new plants. If you have a specific cultivar, though, you would need to take some cuttings to make sure the new tree has the same characteristics.

Maintenance/Pruning

This is a low maintenance tree and the only pruning that is usually needed is to remove any branches that have become dead, damaged or diseased.

Pests

Giant conifer aphids are known to attack the Deodar cedar. These infestations do not usually affect the tree enough to severely injure it. They do, however, produce a sticky liquid called honeydew. This can fall to the ground and make everything there tacky.

Other possible pests include deodar weevils, scales, borers, and bagworms.

Diseases

Honey fungi (a parasitic mushroom) may develop on this tree. Root rot may occur if the soil is soggy.

Tip blight can cause the needles to turn brown and fall off. There may also be spots with sooty mold if honeydew is present from aphids.

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