



*Useful for
adding year
long interest*

Conifers

made easy



www.haskins.co.uk



HASKINS
for garden pleasure

With their vast array of shapes and sizes, conifers are useful for adding year-long interest and evergreen structure to your garden

Conifers are trees or shrubs that bear cones. They are a versatile group that can be used in many ways within a garden, excelling as privacy screens, sound barriers, specimens, backgrounds for flowering borders and as accents in rock gardens. The smaller dwarfing varieties are also perfect for creating contemporary pot displays.



How to choose...

There are three points to consider when looking to buy a conifer: its **eventual height**, its **natural shape**, and its **intended use**.

When all three factors are taken into consideration, the right choice becomes relatively easy due to a process of elimination.

Height

There are four main conifer height groups, all based upon their growth rate: *Dwarfing*, *Slow*, *Medium*, and *Fast*. These groups are identified on the plant label with an icon of some kind.

- **Dwarfing** have a super-slow growth rate, reaching a height of under 40cm in 10 years.
- **Slow** growing are categorised as having a height under 1 metre in 10 years.
- **Medium** growing can reach up to 2 metres in 10 years.
- **Fast** growing conifers are those that reach any height above 2 meters in 10 years.

Shape

All conifers can be broadly split into four basic shapes: **round** or **mounded**, **flat** or **ground-hugging**, **conical** and **cylindrical**.

Combining their shapes with other plants in your garden will heighten contrast, creating a pleasing, dynamic composition. Greater effects are also possible when colour variations, ranging from golden yellow to silvery blue, are incorporated into your planting schemes.

Intended use

Hedges – Fast growing conifers are perfect for hedges, providing privacy whilst absorbing traffic noise and pollution. They also offer shelter for birds and wildlife whilst providing a backdrop to your flower borders and lawns.

Ground cover – Flat and ground-hugging conifers are great for helping to suppress weeds, especially on banks and slopes. They are also a great way to edge ponds, paths or borders or cover up unsightly areas. Alternatively, they can be used as a foil for bulbs, flowers, or grasses.

Pots and Containers – Miniature conifers make a perfect centre piece to a patio pot or container, happily sitting in the same pot for 5 years with minimal attention. Try them with winter bedding and spring bulbs and flowers which can then be swapped for summer bedding for attractive containers all year round. Water in summer, trim occasionally and add an annual slow-release fertiliser to keep them healthy.

Dwarf varieties have distinctive shapes and needles, making them ideal as pot grown specimens for that contemporary look. Choose a pot relative to the conifer's size in a complementary colour.

Ponds & Water features – Conifers look great when planted around water features, especially when paired with acers and azaleas. They can also be useful for hiding pond liners and breaking up any hard edges.



Specimen

Borders – Slow to medium growing conifers provide excellent evergreen structure within borders from which to display and contrast other plants, especially heathers, grasses, and architectural perennials. They are also useful for informal boundary planting as they help to absorb traffic noise.

Specimens – If you have the space, many conifers have enough on offer to be standalone specimens. Choose those with strong shapes or interesting needles and cones. For the adventurous, shaping techniques from Bonsai can also be applied to larger pines to create an extra layer of interest.



Pinus Mugo

Gardener's check list

- ✓ Choose conifers in sizes that fit the scale of your garden. The eventual height will impact the surrounding planting scheme in years to come.
- ✓ Use silhouette and shape to add interest to either the adjacent plants or to the skyline beyond.
- ✓ With different needle shapes and sizes, conifers offer lots of textural opportunity. Pair them with contrasting perennials, grasses, and ground covers for maximum effect.
- ✓ Most conifers grow from their tips and will need regular clipping if used as formal or roadside hedges. This helps them stay neat, tight, and looking green all year round.

Cultivation notes

Planting – Like other trees and shrubs, conifers are best planted in the ground between October to April, whilst those destined for pots and containers can be planted at any time.

Conifers will generally tolerate most soils and some species have adapted to tolerate difficult conditions, such as boggy ground or light, sandy soils. Always check the label to give your purchase the best start.

Feeding – Apply a balanced slow-release fertiliser in late winter. All conifers benefit from mulching, which can be homemade compost or woodchip for those in the ground and decorative pebbles for those in pots. Mulching helps suppress weeds and retains moisture during the summer months.

Clipping – Only formal and roadside hedges will need a yearly trim to maintain their integrity. Most conifers, apart from Yew, are tip growing and will not grow from old wood. This means that heavy pruning will only expose bare wood, rather than encourage new growth.



Planting



Clipping

Plant list

The following list identifies common or easy to find conifers that can be used in your garden. Alternatively, our online Plant Finder is a great planning tool to help you choose conifers by their use and height:

www.haskins.co.uk/haskins-plant-finder

Dwarf & slow growing varieties

These varieties grow under 40cm in 10 years and are perfect for growing in tubs or as highlight in a rockery.

Chamaecyparis laws. 'Ellwood's Pillar'

Chamaecyparis laws. 'Minima Aurea'

Chamaecyparis pis. 'Baby Blue'

Chamaecyparis thyoides 'Blue Rock'

Juniperus squamata 'Blue Star'

Picea glauca 'Zuckerhut'

Picea omorika 'Karel'

Pinus mugo 'Mops'

Pinus parviflora 'Negishi'

Pinus mugo Carstens 'Wintergold'

Pinus mugo 'Ophir'

Pinus strobus 'Bergmans Mini'

Pinus strobus 'Sea Urchin'

Pinus sylvestris 'Watereri'

Pinus uncinata 'Grüne Welle'

Taxus baccata 'David'

Thuja orientalis 'Aurea Nana'

Thuja occidentalis 'Fire Chief'

Thuja plicata 'Whipcord'

Tsuga canadensis 'Nana'



Medium varieties

These varieties will grow up to 2m in 10 years, making them perfect for borders, in rockeries or combined with water features.

Chamaecyparis laws. 'Ellwoodii'

Chamaecyparis laws. 'Ellwood's Empire'

Chamaecyparis laws. 'Snow White'

Chamaecyparis laws. 'Wisselii'

Juniperus chin. 'Stricta'

Juniperus scopulorum 'Blue Arrow'

Juniperus squamata 'Loderi'

Juniperus chin. 'Stricta'

Picea glauca 'Biesenthaler Frühling'

Picea glauca 'Daisy White'

Picea glauca 'Rainbows End'

Picea glauca 'Sanders Blue'

Picea pungens 'Glauca Globosa'

Pinus strobus 'Secret'

Thuja plicata '4ever Goldy'





Thuja Smaragd



Picea Pungens

Tall varieties

These varieties will grow beyond 2m in 10 years, making them perfect for adding height and structure to a larger garden.

Chamaecyparis laws. 'Alumigold'

Chamaecyparis laws. 'Columnaris'

Chamaecyparis laws. 'Ivonne'

Chamaecyparis laws. 'Stardust'

Chamaecyparis laws. 'White Spot'

Cupressocyparis leylandii

Cupressocyparis leylandii 'Castlewellan'

Thuja occidentalis 'Smaragd'

Hedging

These varieties are perfect for formal and informal hedging, screening, and for sound absorption.

Cupressocyparis leylandii

Cupressocyparis leylandii 'Castlewellan'

Taxus baccata (Yew)

Thuja occidentalis 'Smaragd'

Thuja occidentalis 'Brabant'

Thuja plicata 'Atrovirens'

Ground Cover

These varieties are ideal for creating a carpet of ground cover.

Chamaecyparis pis. 'Sungold'

Juniperus conferta 'Allgold'

Juniperus com. 'Green Carpet'

Juniperus conferta 'Blue Pacific'

Juniperus horizontalis 'Blue Chip'

Juniperus horizontalis 'Golden Carpet'

Juniperus horizontalis 'Ice Blue'

Juniperus procumbens 'Nana'

Juniperus squamata 'Blue Carpet'

Tsuga canadensis 'Cole's Prostrate'

Specimens

These conifers have unusual characteristics making them perfect as a standalone specimen.

Picea pungens 'Hoopsii'

Picea pungens 'Edith'

Picea pungens 'Blue Mountain'

Picea pungens 'Iseli Fastigiata'

Sciadopitys verticillata (Umbrella pine)

For more gardening and plant advice visit our website www.haskins.co.uk



www.haskins.co.uk



HASKINS
for garden pleasure