About the Scott Arboretum

The Scott Arboretum is a green oasis uniquely situated on the Swarthmore College campus. Over 300 acres create the College landscape and provide a display of the best ornamental plants recommended for Delaware Valley gardens.

Established in 1929 as a living memorial to Arthur Hoyt Scott, Class of 1895, through gift from his family, the Arboretum continues to thrive today. There are over 4,000 different kinds of plants grown on the campus, selected for their outstanding ornamental qualities, ease of maintenance, and resistance to disease. Major plant collections include: flowering cherries, crabapples, hollies, lilacs, magnolias, tree peonies, rhododendrons, hydrangeas, conifers, vines and summer flowering shrubs, viburnums, and witchhazels.

Maps and specialized brochures on plants growing on the campus are available at the Arboretum headquarters, which also houses a horticultural reference library. The Arboretum grounds are open from dawn to dusk year-round. Admission is free. The Arboretum is supported in part by the Associates of the Scott Arboretum, a membership group. For additional information, call 610-328-8025, Monday through Friday, 8:30 to noon and 1:00-4:30.


Pseudolarix amabilis - golden-larch
Deciduous conifer; needles turn bright, golden yellow in the fall. Becomes open and horizontally branched with age, similar to C. libani. Section 3

Sciadopitys verticillata - Japanese umbrella-pine
Needles are 2-5 inches long, spreading in whorls from the ends of branches; almost plastic-looking appearance. Broadly spreading habit; slow growing; Grows 50’-60’ tall and 15’-20’ wide. Section 3

Sequoiadendron giganteum ‘Hazel Smith’ - giant sequoia
Increased hardness than the straight species; fantastic specimen tree. Dense and broadly pyramidal as a young tree, maintaining form through maturity though without lower branches. Steely-blue foliage with reddish-brown corky-textured bark. Section 3

Taxodium distichum - common baldcypress
Columnar to pyramidal deciduous conifer. Airy in appearance, dark green foliage turns rusty orange to brown in fall. Reddish-brown rope-like bark provides winter interest. Well suited to wet soils. Grows 80’-90’. Sections 1 & 3

Torreya nucifera - Japanese nutmeg-yew
Tight, broadly pyramidal habit. Pointed, shiny green needles are arranged spirally in a horizontal plane. Grows to 50’ tall. Section 3

Tsuga canadensis ‘Pendula’ - Canadian or eastern hemlock
Weeping cultivar; needles are flat with two white bands on the underside. Grows 4’-5’ tall with 8’-10’ spread but can be pruned to keep smaller. *Is susceptible to hemlock woolly adelgid and Forinia scale, which feed on the plant’s sap and causes needle loss and limited growth; can lead to death of the tree. Section 1
What is a Pinetum?

A pinetum is an area of land planted with pines or related conifers. The Scott Arboretum uses pines and other conifers throughout campus; however, the greatest concentration of these plants is located in an area from the train station, up the hill to Sharples Dining Hall, and continuing up and westward towards Wharton Hall.

In the narrowest of definitions, conifers are trees or shrubs that bear woody cones containing naked seeds. They date back to prehistoric times, existing before the first flowering plants. They include some of the largest plants on earth today, as well as some of the oldest.

Not only do conifers add a sense of permanence to virtually any landscape, but they also add interest in all seasons. They come in a variety of shapes and sizes and bear foliage in a wide array of hues and textures. Although most conifers are evergreen, retaining their needle-like foliage throughout the year, some conifers are deciduous, dropping their needles at the onset of winter. As a group, they include some of the most versatile plants, requiring minimal maintenance and tolerating extreme ecological conditions. Conifers can be found in Arctic cold and tropical heat, full sun and full shade, dry, sandy soil and even in standing swamp water.

This brochure highlights some of the best conifers for the area and represents the diversity of conifers at the Arboretum. Sections listed at the end of the description refer to the sections on the map.

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**Abies firma**- Momi fir

Unlike other firs, the Momi fir can withstand southern heat, performing well in both Georgia and Alabama. Grows 40’-50’ in height and has a pyramidal-conical habit with dark green, lustrous needles. Section 1

**Abies koreana**- Korean fir

Notable for the two white bands on the underside of the needles, which provide contrast for the dark purple cones that develop on mature trees (at least 3-5 years old). Grows 30’-50’ in height and half that or less in width. Section 1

**Abies nordmanniana**- Nordmann fir

Densely-branched, slender pyramidal form and habit. Needles are a lustrous black-green. Grows to 40’-60’. Section 2

**Calocedrus decurrens**- California incensecedar

Upright, columnar form with shiny dark foliage. The bark can be gray-green to red-brown and is smooth until later in maturity. Grows 30’-50’ in height and 10’-15’ wide. Section 1

**Cedrus atlantica**- Atlas cedar

Picturesque habit—pyramidal when young to flat-topped and spreading when mature. Spirally-arranged needle rosettes on spurs are green to silvery green. Grows to 40’-60’ in height. Section 2

**Cedrus atlantica Glauca group**

Needles of this cedar are a rich frosty blue, which differentiate them from the straight species. Section 2

**Cedrus deodara ‘Roman Gold’- deodar cedar**

Fast-growing with dense branching that becomes more open and dramatic with age. Needles are longest of the true cedars and, in this cultivar, are a golden color. Grows 40’-70’ in height. Section 2

**Cedrus libani- cedar-of-Lebanon**

Most cold hardy of all cedars: tightly pyramidal habit in youth becoming more horizontally branched and developing a flat-topped crown. Grows 40’-70’ in height. Section 2

**Cephalotaxus harringtonii**

Essentially maintenance-free; deer resistant and heat-tolerant. Evergreen needles have two grayish bands on the underside. Grows 5’-10’ high and wide. Section 3

**Chamaecyparis obtusa var. formosana**

**Hinoki false-cypress**

Pyramidal form with soft, fern-like foliage that is dark green above and silvery on the underside. Round, 1/3 - 1/2 inch cones are comprised of eight to ten scales. Grows to 50’-75’ high and 10’-20’ wide. Section 2

**Cryptomeria japonica** ‘Yoshino’- Japanese cryptomeria

Fast growing form; tall, pyramidal to conical form with a stout trunk. Needles bend toward the end of stem, providing a foxtail effect. Needles are dark green turning to bronze in cold weather. Grows 50’-60’ high and 20’-30’ wide. Sections 2 & 3

**Cunninghamia lanceolata** ‘Chason’s Gift’- common china-fir

Broadly pyramidal with lustrous, pointed, dark green needles. Not prone to dead branches as other C. lanceolata. From afar, looks more like Abies than Cunninghamia. Grows 30’-75’ high and 10’-30’ wide. Section 3

**Juniperus rigida**- needle juniper

Loose and open habit; grows to 30’ with pendulous branchlets and sharp, bright green needles. Each needle has single white band on the topside. Section 3

**Juniperus virginiana Emerald Sentinel™- eastern red-cedar**

A resilient plant; develops definite pyramidal-columnar shape with dark green foliage and silver cones. Grows 15’-20’ high and 6’-10’ wide. Sections 2 & 3

**Larix decidua- European larch**

Deciduous conifer with bright green, 1-inch long needles turning amber-yellow in fall. Grows 70’-75’ high and 25’-30’ wide. Section 3

**Metasequoia glyptostroboides- dawn redwood**

Deciduous conifer with 1/2-inch long bright green needles that turn orangish to reddish brown in fall. Trunk becomes buttressed with age. Grows 120’-140’ high and 50’ wide. Sections 2 & 3

**Picea orientalis ‘Skylands’- oriental spruce**

Yellow-foliaged cultivar. Densely branched, narrow-pyramidal habit with short (1/4-1/2 inch) needles. Grows 50’-60’ tall and 10’-15’ wide. Section 3

**Pinus bungeana- lacebark pine**

Rich green needles set off the exfoliating, patchwork-like bark. Usually multistemmed; prune lower branches to showcase bark. Grows 30’-50’ tall and 20’-35’ wide. Section 3

**Pinus densiflora**- ‘Umbraculifera’- Japanese red pine

Upright, spreading, umbrella-like form becoming more vase-like with time. Orange bark becomes exfoliating over time. Grows 20’-25’ tall. Section 3

**Pinus densiflora ‘Umbraculifera’**

**Pinus flexilis ‘Vanderwolf’s Pyramid’- limber pine**

Upright pyramidal habit with dense branching. Attractive blue-green needles; grows to 50’-70’ tall and 15’-35’ wide. Section 3

**Pinus wallichiana- Himalayan pine**

Excellent specimen tree; upright, broadly spreading habit with blue-green needles that creates a fine-textured appearance. Grows 75’-100’ tall and wide. Section 3

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Images and illustrations appear where appropriate in the text.