



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Plant Materials Program

'Affinity'

Northern white cedar

Thuja occidentalis L.

A Conservation Plant Release by USDA NRCS Rose Lake Plant Materials Center, East Lansing, MI



'Affinity' Northern white cedar

'Affinity' Northern white cedar is a cultivar released in 1993 in cooperation with Jasper-Pulaski State Nursery of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

Description

'Affinity' is a fast growing intermediate tree that reaches heights to 78 feet. It has a narrow pyramidal to oblong crown. The leaves are yellow-green. They are scale-like and flattened with a foliage spray often fanlike. Seed cones are 0.3-1.3 cm. in length, erect and oblong. Seeds are released in the fall, but the cones often persist throughout the winter. The bark is brown in color and fibrous.



Close-up of 'Affinity' Northern white cedar foliage

Source

'Affinity' Northern white cedar was collected at the Jasper-Pulaski State Nursery in Medaryville, IN. 'Affinity' has been evaluated at the Rose Lake Plant Materials Center and in extensive field plantings throughout the Great Lakes Region. Northern white cedar is a native species and is widespread throughout this region.

Conservation Uses

'Affinity' is a multiple use plant intended for use in field and farmstead windbreaks and as a screen or border planting in recreational and urban development. 'Affinity' shows promise for use as a windbreak on organic soils. In much of its range, Northern white cedar is an important source of winter browse. In all, 84 wildlife species were identified as using the various developmental stages of the Northern white cedar community.

Area of Adaptation and Use

Performance has been very good and all indications are that 'Affinity' should be well adapted throughout the Great Lakes Region in plant hardiness zones 3,4 and 5.

Establishment and Management for Conservation Plantings

'Affinity' can be successfully established using 3-0 planting stock by following normal planting procedures for bare root trees. Spacing for windbreak planting is 6-10 feet.

Ecological Considerations

Weed, deer and rodent control are necessary for good establishment and uniform growth. This can be obtained through cultivation, mowing and after the establishment year, application of approved herbicides. No serious disease or insect damage has been observed to limit 'Affinity' growth. Deer browse and rodent damage have been observed in some plantings.



Windbreak along roadway of 'Affinity' Northern white cedar

Seed and Plant Production

Seeds are produced in cones, each cone containing approximately 8 seeds. Cones may be produced by trees as young as 6 years old, but seed production increases as trees mature. Good seed crops are produced at intervals of 2 to 5 years.

Cones should be harvested when they start to open, but before seeds release from the cones. Cones can be air dried for several weeks, which will aid in seed separation from the cone.

Availability

Foundation stock of 'Affinity' Northern white cedar is available for distribution to commercial nurseries through the USDA-NRCS Rose Lake Plant Materials Center.

For more information, contact:
Rose Lake Plant Materials Center
7472 Stoll Rd., East Lansing, MI 48823
Phone: 517-641-6300
Fax: 517-641-4021



Row of 'Affinity' Northern white cedar

Citation

Release Brochure for 'Affinity' Northern white cedar (*Thuja occidentalis* L.) (THOC2), USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Rose Lake Plant Materials Center, East Lansing, MI 48823. Published August, 1993.

For additional information about this and other plants, please contact your local USDA Service Center, NRCS field office, or Conservation District <<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>>, and visit the PLANTS Web site <<http://plants.usda.gov/>> or the Plant Materials Program Web site <<http://www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/>>

Helping People Help The Land

USDA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

Helping People Help The Land

USDA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER