

Recommended Trees for Southeast Minnesota (Conifers)

Species	Height (feet)	Width (feet)	Shape	Fall Color	Street use?	Under utility lines?	Shade Tolerance	Notable Flower	Notable Cone	Other Notes
Cedar, white [Thuja occidentalis]	15+	6+	Pyramidal	Green	No	Yes	Partial	No	Yes	Native to Blufflands and Twin Cities Highlands. Cultivars: 'Techny', 'Brandon'.
Cedar, red [Juniperus virginiana]	15+	6+	Pyramidal	Green	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Native to all of Southeast Minnesota. Tolerates hot and dry sites; produces a cone that looks like a blue-green berry. Cultivar: 'Canaertii'.
Fir, balsam [Abies balsamea]	40+	20+	Pyramidal	Green	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Native to Blufflands and Anoka Sand Plain. Not very drought/heat tolerant.
Fir, white [Abies concolor]	30+	20+	Pyramidal	Green/Blue	No	No	Partial	No	Yes	Good fir for the urban landscape; more tolerant of heat and drought, but not heavy soils.
Fir, fraser [Abies fraseri]	30+	20+	Pyramidal	Green/Blue	No	No	No	No	Yes	A better fit than balsam for the southern part of the state; requires more moisture and nutrients than white.
Douglas-Fir [Pseudotsuga menziesii var. glauca]	40+	20+	Pyramidal	Green	No	No	No	No	Yes	Does best in south half of the region.
Larch, American [Larix laricina]	40+	20+	Pyramidal	Yellow	Sometimes ¹	No	No	No	Yes	Native to all areas of Southeast Minnesota except the Rochester plateau.
Larch, European [Larix decidua]	40+	20+	Pyramidal	Yellow	Sometimes ¹	No	No	No	Yes	
Larch, Japanese [Larix kaempferi]	40+	20+	Pyramidal	Yellow	Sometimes ¹	No	No	No	Yes	
Larch, Siberian [Larix sibirica]	40+	20+	Pyramidal	Yellow	Sometimes ¹	No	No	No	Yes	
Pine, eastern white [Pinus strobus]	40+	20+	Pyramidal	Green	No	No	No	No	Yes	
Pine, jack [Pinus bankisiana]	35+	25+	Irregular	Green	No	No	No	No	Yes	Native to Blufflands and Anoka Sand Plain. A novelty tree, due to its irregular growth habit; does better than many other trees in poor, sandy soils.
Pine, red (Norway) [Pinus resinosa]	40+	25+	Pyramidal	Green	No	No	No	No	Yes	Native to Anoka Sand Plain and Twin Cities Highlands. The Minnesota state tree.
Pine, ponderosa [Pinus ponderosa]	40+	25+	Pyramidal	Green	No	No	No	No	Yes	
Pine, Scots [Pinus sylvestris]	30+	25+	Irregular	Green/Blue	No	No	No	No	Yes	Unique shape as it gets older; orange bark.
Spruce, black [Picea mariana]	30+	15+	Pyramidal	Green	No	No	Partial	No	Yes	Native to all of Southeast Minnesota.
Spruce, Black Hills [Picea glauca var. densata]	40+	20+	Pyramidal	Green	No	No	No	No	Yes	Better heat and drought tolerance than some other spruces.
Spruce, Norway [Picea abies]	40+	20+	Pyramidal	Green	No	No	No	No	Yes	Needs wind protection; large, showy cones.
Spruce, white [Picea glauca]	40+	20+	Pyramidal	Green	No	No	No	No	Yes	Native to Blufflands and Anoka Sand Plain. Avoid hot, dry sites.

¹ All larches may be considered for street use, particularly in tough sites. They are deciduous conifers (losing their needles in the autumn), which creates a rather coarse winter habit. Japanese larch is the least winter hardy; American larch does the best on wet sites; European larch has the most refined growth habit; Siberian larch is an excellent shelterbelt/windbreak tree.