

Recommended Trees for Northwest and Central Minnesota (Conifers)

| Species | Height (feet) | Width (feet) | Shape | Fall Color | Street use? | Under utility lines? | Shade Tolerance | Notable Flower | Notable Cone | Other Notes |
|---|---------------|--------------|-----------|------------|-------------|----------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|---|
| Arborvitae (white cedar), American [Thuja occidentalis] | 15+ | 6+ | Pyramidal | Green | No | Yes | Partial | No | Yes | A dense, pyramidal evergreen widely planted as individual specimens, small groups, or as living fence. Numerous cultivars with differing characteristics are available. Avoid using in areas with high concentrations of white-tailed deer. |
| Cedar, eastern red [Juniperus virginiana] | 15+ | 6+ | Pyramidal | Green | No | Yes | No | No | Yes | Native to the Hardwood Hills. Selected cultivars include 'Canaertii' and 'Hilli'. Native to the Hardwood Hills. Selected cultivars include 'Canaertii' and 'Hilli'. |
| Larch, American (tamarack) [Larix laricina] ¹ | 40+ | 20+ | Pyramidal | Yellow | Sometimes | No | No | No | Yes | |
| Larch, European [Larix decidua] ¹ | 40+ | 20+ | Pyramidal | Yellow | Sometimes | No | No | No | Yes | Very tolerant of deicing salt spray. |
| Larch, Siberian [Larix sibirica] ¹ | 40+ | 20+ | Pyramidal | Yellow | Sometimes | No | No | No | Yes | |
| Spruce, Black Hills [Picea glauca var. densata] | 40+ | 20+ | Pyramidal | Green | No | No | Yes | No | Yes | Better adapted to hot, dry sites than the other spruces. Is shade tolerant, but will have denser foliage if grown in full sun. |
| Spruce, Norway [Picea abies] | 40+ | 20+ | Pyramidal | Green | No | No | No | No | Yes | A large evergreen with pendant branchlets that create a graceful form. Prefers soils with ample moisture. Produces large showy cones. |
| Spruce, white [Picea glauca] | 40+ | 20+ | Pyramidal | Green | No | No | Yes | No | Yes | Very hardy, adaptable tree. Widely planted as single specimens, in groups, or as windbreaks. Spider mites are often a problem in hot, dry conditions. Is shade tolerant but will have denser foliage if grown in full sun. |

¹ - Larches may be considered for street tree use, especially in particularly tough sites. Larches are deciduous conifers and lose their needles in the fall. American does best on wet sites; European has the most refined growth habit; Japanese is the least winter hardy; Siberian is an excellent windbreak or shelterbelt tree.



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