

Recommended Trees for Northern Tallgrass Prairie (Conifers)

Species	Height (feet)	Width (feet)	Shape	Fall Color	Street use? lines?	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, shelterbelt, or windbreak. Numerous cultivars with differing characteristics are available.
Cedar, eastern red [Juniperus virginiana]	15+	6+	Pyramidal	Green	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Native to Northern Tallgrass Prairie. Selected cultivars include 'Canaertii' and 'Hillii'.
Larch, American (tamarack) [Larix laricina]	40+	20+	Pyramidal	Yellow	Sometimes ¹	No	No	No	Yes	
Larch, European [Larix decidua]	40+	20+	Pyramidal	Yellow	Sometimes ¹	No	No	No	Yes	Very tolerant of deicing salt spray.
Larch, Siberian [Larix sibirica]	40+	20+	Pyramidal	Yellow	Sometimes ¹	No	No	No	Yes	
Spruce, Black Hills [Picea glauca var. densata]	40+	20+	Pyramidal	Green	No	No	Partial	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	Is a large evergreen with pendant branchlets that create a graceful form. Prefers soils with ample moisture. Produces large showy cones.

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



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