

# Broadleaf Evergreens for USDA Zone 4

Botanical Name	Common Name	Height	Comments
<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	common bearberry	6-12"	Prostrate native shrub with small, thick persistent leaves; small red berries; may be hard to find at garden centers.
<i>Bergenia cordifolia</i>	pig squeak, bergenia	12-18"	Bronze/red winter foliage; often tattered and brown by spring; early spring pink flowers.
<i>Buxus microphylla koreana</i>	Korean boxwood	2-4'	Hardy; good for low hedges and knot gardens; deep-green fine-textured foliage persists throughout winter; prefers well-drained soil; protect from winter sun and wind; 'Green Velvet' and 'Wintergreen' are good dwarf cultivars.
<i>Daphne xburkwoodii</i>	'Carol Mackie' daphne	2-3'	Officially rated as USDA Zone 5; beautiful specimen plant; provide winter protection; often shortlived but well worth it.
<i>Euonymus fortunei vegeta</i>	bigleaf wintercreeper	under 1'	Can be grown as a groundcover, small shrub, or trained to a wall; flowers insignificant; needs protection from winter sun; do not plant where it can escape into a native area.
<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>	mountain laurel	3-5'	Marginally hardy in Zone 4; attractive, leathery dark green leaves are maroon when emerging from the snow in spring; needs moist acidic site; 'Sarah' has large pinkish-red flowers.
<i>Microbiota decussata</i>	Russian cyprus	1' x 6'	Low radiating arborvitae-like evergreen shrub; fan-like foliage changes from light green in spring to deep green in summer and bronze-brown in winter.
<i>Pachysandra terminalis</i>	Japanese spurge	6-12"	Attractive whorls of evergreen foliage; good for under maple and other trees; 'Green Carpet' and 'Variegata' are common varieties; needs winter cover from sun and wind.
<i>Rhododendron</i> 'P.J.M.'	PJM rhododendron	3-5'	Prefer acidic soil; tolerates light shade; lavender pink flowers in early spring; hardy to -35°F.
<i>Yucca filamentosa</i>	yucca	30"	Bold focal point; leaves are pointed and very sharp; drought and salt tolerant; flowers up to 5' tall.
<i>Vinca minor</i>	myrtle, periwinkle	6-12"	Attractive thick foliage; showy blue flowers in spring; creeping stolons.



Selected cultivars of boxwood make good evergreens for Zone 4 in protected areas.



Rhododendron leaves react to cold climates by drooping and curling inward to minimize water loss.

Broadleaf evergreens are a welcome but rare sight in USDA Zone 4. Green foliage in the dead of winter, even curled and transformed by cold, still provides interest in the garden. These plants are the best bets for surviving the zone's climate, but all prefer protection from drying winds and bright winter sun; therefore protected areas on the north and eastern side of a building are good locations.

Compiled by Deb Reiersen, Hennepin County Master Gardener. Deb enjoys volunteering in the Master Gardener program by answering calls on the Yard and Garden Line and working on home landscape projects with Habitat for Humanity. She grows several of these evergreen plants in her garden.