

10,000 TREES INITIATIVE

TREE INFO CARD

Northern Whitecedar (*Thuja occidentalis*)

Get to know your tree:

The northern whitecedar, also known as arborvitae, is a Michigan native species with tiny, scale-like, yellowish-green leaves. Leaves emerge opposite one another in flattened, fan-like sprays. Fruits are small, upright seed cones that are yellow-green when immature and brown, with 2 pairs of scales forming a rose shape, when mature. Bark is fibrous and either reddish-brown or greyish-brown in color.

Tree benefits:

Over 20 years, a 1-inch diameter arborvitae is expected to provide approximately \$7.47 in benefits, avoid 211 gallons of stormwater runoff, and sequester 43.87 pounds of CO₂. To learn more about these benefits or those of other trees, visit mytree.itreetools.org.



Fun facts about your tree:

This tree is significant in the Ojibwe culture for its many uses. For example, the leaves are high in Vitamin C and medicinal teas can be made from its twigs.

The name arborvitae is Latin for 'Tree of Life,' and dates to 1558.



Plant your tree:

When choosing where to plant this tree, consider spots with at least partial sun exposure (at least 4 hours of sun per day). Whitecedars grow to heights of 30-40 feet, with a spread of around 10-20 feet. Consider conflicts with buildings, solar panels, and overhead utilities - though this species takes well to pruning! This species does well in most soil types. It is tolerant of heat and air pollution, but can be susceptible to ice damage.

For detailed planting instructions, please visit www.arborday.org/trees/planting. And always make sure to call Miss Dig (1-800-482-7171) to mark underground utilities before digging on your property!

Care for your tree:

This species is moderately tolerant of drought, but prefers moist soil. Watering should be done during dry periods - especially in the summer - but there's no set amount of water your tree needs. Instead, how much you water should be based on the soil. Check the soil at a depth of two inches - if it's moist, there's no need to water. But if it's dry, you should water your tree! Make sure not to water if the temperature is below freezing. Most trees need watering during the first two years after planting - but keep an eye on older trees as well.



www.a2gov.org/10ktrees