

# Japanese Cedar

## *Cryptomeria japonica*

Japanese Cedar, or *Cryptomeria*, keeps a billowy pyramidal form on one central trunk until close to maturity when the crown opens up into an irregular, narrow oval. It will reach a height of about 50 feet and spread about 20 feet. Old specimens can develop trunks to 3 feet in diameter. The reddish-brown bark is ornamental, peeling off in long strips, and is the most pronounced characteristic on old trees. The foliage will become bronzed during the winter but greens up again in spring. It makes a wonderful accent, screen, or border tree for larger properties. Some varieties may grow too large for most residential landscapes. A number of cultivars are available varying in growth habit and ability to hold green foliage color in the winter. 'Yoshino' holds green foliage color in the winter. 'Elegans' grows to 15 feet tall.

**Type:** evergreen tree

**USDA hardiness zones:** 6a through 8b

**Uses:** border; mass planting; container or

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Height:** 40 to 60 feet      **Spread:** 15 to 20

**Crown shape:** pyramidal, oval

**Crown density:** dense

**Growth rate:** slow

**Light requirement:** full sun to part shade

**Soil tolerances:** full sun

**Soil tolerances:** clay; sand; loam; acidic; well-drained

**Drought tolerance:** high

**Aerosol salt tolerance:** unknown

**Invasive potential:** little invasive potential

**Pest resistance:** sensitive to pests/diseases

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Photo: UF/IFAS