



‘Affinity’ northern white cedar *Thuja occidentalis* L.



‘Affinity’ Northern White Cedar

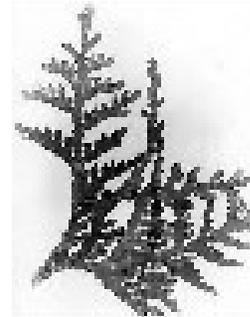
‘Affinity’ northern white cedar was released by the USDA-NRCS Rose Lake Plant Materials Center (PMC) in cooperation with Jasper-Pulaski State Nursery of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources as a cultivar in 1993.

Description

‘Affinity’ is an intermediate tree that reaches heights to 50 feet. It has a narrow pyramidal to oblong crown. The leaves are yellow-green, scale-like, and flattened with a fanlike foliage spray. Seed cones are about 1/2-inch long, erect, and oblong. Seeds are released in the fall, but the cones often persist throughout the winter. The bark is brown and fibrous.

Source

‘Affinity’ northern white cedar was collected at the Jasper-Pulaski State Nursery in Medaryville, IN. ‘Affinity’ has been evaluated at the Rose Lake PMC and in extensive field plantings throughout the Great Lakes region. Northern white cedar is a native species and is widespread throughout this region.



Close-up of ‘Affinity’ Northern White Cedar Foliage. Photo Courtesy W. D. Brush @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

Conservation Uses

‘Affinity’ is a multiple-use plant intended for field and farmstead windbreaks and as a screen or border planting in recreational and urban development. Michigan NRCS technical specialists have determined that ‘Affinity’ is useful or potentially useful with these Conservation Practice Standards:

- Alley Cropping (311)
- Forage and Biomass Planting (512)
- Hedgerow Planting (422)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
- Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
- Stream Habitat Improvement and Management (395)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)
- Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (644)
- Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380)
- Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation (650)

Area of Adaptation and Use

Performance has been very good and all indications are that ‘Affinity’ is well adapted throughout the Great Lakes region.

Establishment and Management for Conservation Plantings

'Affinity' can be successfully established using 3-0 planting stock (i.e., 3 years in original nursery, 0 years in transplant bed) by following normal planting procedures for bare root trees. Spacing for windbreak planting is 6 to 10 feet.

Ecological Considerations

Weed, deer, and rodent control are necessary for good establishment and uniform growth. Deer browse and rodent damage, but no insect damage, have been observed in 'Affinity' northern white cedar.



Windbreak along Roadway of 'Affinity' Northern White Cedar

Seed and Plant Production

Seeds are produced in cones, each cone containing approximately 8 seeds. Cones may be produced by trees as young as 6-years old, but seed production increases as trees mature. Good seed crops are produced at intervals of 2 to 5 years.

Cones should be harvested when they start to open, but before seeds release from the cones. Cones can be air dried for several weeks, which will aid in seed separation from the cone.

Availability

'Affinity' northern white cedar, as well as other Rose Lake PMC releases, is available from commercial suppliers. Rose Lake PMC does not sell releases to the general public, although small quantities of seed are available to commercial seed or nursery growers for increase purposes.

For more information, contact:
Rose Lake Plant Materials Center
7472 Stoll Road, East Lansing, MI 48823
Phone: 517-641-6300
Fax: 855-701-4363



Row of 'Affinity' Northern White Cedar

Citation

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For additional information about this and other plants, please contact your local USDA Service Center, NRCS field office, or Conservation District <<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>>, and visit the PLANTS Web site <<http://plants.usda.gov/>> or the Plant Materials Program Web site <<http://www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/>>

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