

EVERGREEN TREES FOR THE KANSAS CITY REGION

AS RATED BY METROPOLITAN AREA EXPERTS

December 2013 revision

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Tested for KC	Height x Width (ft.)	Evergreen Tree name	Use as specimen	Use in buffer or as massing	Culturally adaptable	Heavy Soils	Drought Tolerant	Lifespan	Comments
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PINE

✓✓✓	15x9	<i>Pinus aristata</i> - Bristlecone Pine	😞	😱	😞	😱	😊	😞	Needs excellent drainage, dislikes KC humidity
✓	35x20	<i>Pinus ayacahuite</i> - Mexican White Pine	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	?	Limited experience, but shows promise
✓✓	35x22	<i>Pinus banksiana</i> - Jack Pine	😱	😱	😊	😊	😊	😞	Pine wilt when under stress
✓✓	25x18	<i>Pinus bungeana</i> - Lacebark Pine	😊	😊	😊	😞	😊	😊	Excellent performer with interesting bark
✓	22x11	<i>Pinus cembra</i> - Swiss Stone Pine	😊	😞	😞	😱	😞	?	Limited local success, slow grower
✓✓	30x20	<i>Pinus densiflora</i> - Japanese Red Pine	😊	😞	😊	😊	😊	😞	Some local success, very open habit
✓✓	14x12	<i>Pinus densiflora</i> 'Umbraculifera' - Tabletop Pine	😊	😞	😊	😊	😊	😞	Some local success, interesting flattop specimen
✓✓✓	30x17	<i>Pinus flexilis</i> 'Vanderwolf's' - Limber Pine	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	Green-blue color, can get needle blight
✓	35x20	<i>Pinus koraiensis</i> - Korean Pine	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	?	Loose form, some local success
✓	28x15	<i>Pinus leucodermis</i> - Bosnian Pine	😊	😊	😊	😞	😊	?	Some local success, black pine replacement
✓✓✓	12x14	<i>Pinus mugo</i> - Mugo Pine	😞	😱	😊	😊	😊	😊	Variation in size, pine wilt and scale problems
✓	12x7	<i>Pinus mugo</i> 'Tannenbaum' - Tannenbaum Pine	😊	😞	😊	😊	😊	?	Attractive form, small pine alternative
✓✓✓	55x30	<i>Pinus nigra</i> - Austrian Pine	😱	😱	😞	😊	😊	😱	Severe diplodia tip blight, short lived
✓✓	35x19	<i>Pinus parviflora</i> - Japanese White Pine	😞	😞	😞	😊	😊	😊	Attractive pine, some local success
✓✓✓	50x30	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i> - Ponderosa Pine	😱	😞	😞	😞	😊	😊	Pine tip moth, fungal problems
✓✓	40x18	<i>Pinus resinosa</i> - Red Pine	😱	😞	😱	😊	😞	😱	Too hot in KC for this pine
✓✓	40x25	<i>Pinus strobiformis</i> - Southwestern White Pine	😊	😊	😊	😞	😊	😊	Performs well here and SW of KC
✓✓✓	60x30	<i>Pinus strobus</i> - Eastern White Pine	😞	😊	😊	😊	😞	😊	Drought susceptible, chlorosis, good pine
✓✓✓	45x16	<i>Pinus strob.</i> 'Fastigiata' - Columnar White Pine	😊	😊	😊	😊	😞	😊	Same as species but better for narrow sites
✓✓✓	45x25	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i> - Scotch Pine	😱	😱	😞	😊	😊	😱	Pine wilt & root nematode, European sawfly
✓	50x25	<i>Pinus taeda</i> - Loblolly Pine	😱	😞	😞	😊	😊	?	Cold, ice and high pH can cause problems
✓✓	25x15	<i>Pinus thunbergiana</i> - Japanese Black Pine	😞	😱	😞	😊	😞	😞	Salt tolerant, ice damage, pine wilt
✓	30x15	<i>Pinus wallichiana</i> - Himalayan Pine	😞	😊	😞	😊	😞	?	Needs more testing

PARTICIPANTS:

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SPRUCE

✓✓✓	60x30	<i>Picea abies</i> – Norway Spruce	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	Tough and proven spruce for KC
✓✓✓	27x10	<i>Picea abies</i> ‘Cupressina’ – Upright Norway Spruce	😊	😞	😊	😊	😊	😊	Narrow and fast growing spruce
✓✓✓	22x15	<i>Picea abies</i> . v. <i>pendula</i> – Weeping Norway Spruce	😊	😞	😊	😊	😊	😊	Many specimen application options
✓✓	30x14	<i>Picea breweriana</i> – Brewer’s Spruce	😱	😞	😱	😞	😱	😞	Tested with many failures
✓	30x16	<i>Picea engelmannii</i> – Engelmann Spruce	😐	😱	😐	😊	😊	?	Not tolerant of KC heat or humidity
✓✓	40x20	<i>Picea glauca</i> – White Spruce	😞	😞	😱	😞	😱	😞	Poor heat tolerance
✓✓✓	30x18	<i>Picea glauca</i> ‘Densata’ – Black Hills Spruce	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😞	Slow growing but performs well, dense form
✓✓	18x4	<i>Picea glauca</i> ‘Pendula’ – Weeping White Spruce	😊	😱	😊	😊	😞	😞	Great specimen, good upright leader
✓✓	20x9	<i>Picea mariana</i> ‘Columnar’ – Columnar Black Spruce	😊	😞	😊	😱	😱	😞	Blue-green foliage, slow growing
✓✓	20x7	<i>Picea mariana</i> ‘Wellspire’ – Columnar Black Spruce	😊	😞	😊	😱	😱	😞	Upright form, soft needles, green color
✓✓	40x16	<i>Picea omorika</i> – Serbian Spruce	😊	😊	😊	😞	😞	😊	Blue-green color, performs well in irrigation
✓✓	25x10	<i>Picea omorika</i> ‘Bruns’ – Bruns Serbian Spruce	😊	😊	😊	😞	😞	😊	More narrow than species
✓✓	22x8	<i>Picea omorika</i> ‘Pendula’ - Weeping Serbian Spruce	😊	😞	😊	😞	😞	😊	Very attractive weeping specimen
✓✓✓	25x12	<i>Picea omorika</i> ‘Riverside’ Upright Serbian Spruce	😊	😊	😊	😞	😞	😊	Nice form with green color
✓	25x15	<i>Picea orientalis</i> - Oriental Spruce	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	?	Tiny needles
✓✓	18x8	<i>Picea orientalis</i> ‘Deer Run’ - Deer Run Spruce	😊	😞	😊	😊	😊	😊	Blue color, slow growing
✓	18x9	<i>P. orientalis</i> ‘Skylands’ – Yellow Oriental Spruce	😊	😞	😞	😞	😞	?	Yellow needles fade to green, will scorch
✓✓✓	45x20	<i>Picea pungens</i> – Colorado Spruce	😊	😊	😞	😱	😞	😊	Not heat or drought tolerant, green needles
✓✓✓	45x20	<i>Picea pungens</i> v. <i>glauca</i> – Colorado Blue Spruce	😊	😊	😞	😱	😞	😊	Same as species, but blue color
✓✓✓	40x18	<i>Picea pungens</i> ‘Kosteri’ – Koster Blue Spruce	😊	😞	😊	😱	😞	😊	Blue color, not uniform or dense
✓	15x8	<i>Picea pungens</i> ‘Baby Blue Eyes’ – Baby Blue Eyes Spr.	😊	😊	😞	😱	😞	?	Tidy, small mature size
✓✓	25x14	<i>Picea pungens</i> ‘Bakeri’ – Bakeri Spruce	😊	😊	😞	😱	😞	😊	Good blue color
✓✓✓	20x9	<i>Picea pungens</i> ‘Blue Totum’ – Col. Blue Spruce	😊	😞	😞	😱	😞	😊	Good blue color, snow/ice load is problem
✓✓	20x10	<i>Picea pungens</i> ‘Fastigiata’ - Col. Blue Spruce	😊	😞	😞	😱	😞	😊	Good blue color, snow/ice load is problem
✓✓✓	20x15	<i>Picea pungens</i> ‘Fat Albert’ – Fat Albert Blue Spruce	😊	😊	😞	😱	😞	😊	Excellent blue color and form
✓✓✓	30x16	<i>Picea pungens</i> ‘Hoopsii’ – Hoopsii Blue Spruce	😊	😊	😞	😱	😞	😊	Bluest spruce, more open form

ARBORVITAE

✓✓✓	25x15	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i> – Eastern Arborvitae	😱	😊	😞	😊	😱	😞	Needs irrigation, snow loads are a problem
✓✓	18x4	<i>T. occ.</i> ‘Degroot’s Spire’ – Degroot’s Spire Arborvitae	😊	😊	😱	😊	😱	😞	Best cultivar, otherwise same as species, slow
✓✓✓	16x6	<i>T. occidentalis</i> ‘Smaragd’ – Emerald Green Arborvitae	😱	😞	😱	😊	😱	😱	Overplanted and unloved by experts
✓✓	20x7	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i> ‘Techny’ – Techny Arborvitae	😱	😞	😱	😊	😱	😱	Poor performer, slow growing
✓✓✓	35x15	<i>Thuja</i> x ‘Green Giant’ – Green Giant Arborvitae	😞	😊	😊	😊	😱	😞	Fast grower, drought problems, deer resistant
✓✓	25x12	<i>Thuja</i> x ‘Spring Grove’ – Spring Grove Arborvitae	😞	😊	😊	😊	😱	😞	Less vigorous than Green Giant, but similar
✓✓✓	25x15	<i>Thuja orientalis</i> – Oriental Arborvitae	😱	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	Toughest arborvitae for challenging KC

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JUNIPER

✓	20x12	<i>Juniperus chinensis</i> 'Wintergreen' - Wintergreen Juniper	😞	😊	😐	😊	😊	?	Dense rich green
✓✓	16x9	<i>Juniperus chinensis</i> 'Blue Point' - Blue Point Juniper	😐	😊	😐	😊	😊	😐	Teardrop shape, blue-green color
✓✓	25x14	<i>J. chinensis</i> 'Columnaris Glauca' - Upright Blue Jun.	😞	😊	😐	😊	😊	😞	Narrow, loose habit, silver-grey color
✓✓✓	16x9	<i>Juniperus chinensis</i> 'Hetzii Columnaris' - Hetz Juniper	😞	😊	😊	😊	😊	😐	Green, heavy attractive cone production
✓✓	13x5	<i>Juniperus chinensis</i> 'Iowa' - Iowa Juniper	😞	😊	😊	😊	😊	😞	Green with blue tint, loose form
✓✓✓	20x13	<i>Juniperus chinensis</i> 'Keteleerii' - Keteleerii Juniper	😞	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	Green with loose form, interesting unshaped
✓✓✓	20x12	<i>Juniperus chinensis</i> 'Perfecta' - Perfecta Juniper	😞	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	Natural freshly sheared look
✓✓	18x9	<i>Juniperus chinensis</i> 'Robusta Green' - Upright Juniper	😞	😊	😐	😐	😊	😐	Green, tufted form, slightly irregular
✓✓✓	20x9	<i>Juniperus chinensis</i> 'Spartan' - Spartan Juniper	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	Green, dense and narrow
✓	20x18	<i>Juniperus rigida</i> - Temple Juniper	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	?	Green, slightly weeping branchlets
✓✓	25x13	<i>J. scopulorum</i> 'Blue Haven' - Blue Haven Juniper	😱	😞	😞	😱	😱	😱	Blue, striking color, heavy cone production
✓✓✓	20x7	<i>Juniperus scopulorum</i> 'Skyrocket' - Skyrocket Juniper	😱	😱	😱	😞	😊	😱	Blue, very narrow, poor performer
✓✓✓	18x8	<i>Juniperus scopulorum</i> 'Welchii' - Welch Juniper	😱	😱	😱	😱	😊	😱	Silvery blue-green, compact and dense
✓✓✓	20x10	<i>J. scopulorum</i> 'Wichita Blue' - Wichita Blue Juniper	😱	😞	😱	😞	😊	😱	Brilliant bright blue, poor performer
✓✓✓	40x25	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i> - Eastern Red Cedar	😞	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	Our only native and most durable evergreen
✓✓✓	30x15	<i>J. virginiana</i> 'Glauca' - Silver Eastern Red Cedar	😞	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	Silver hue and very durable
✓	15x5	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i> 'Blue Arrow' - Blue Arrow Juniper	😞	😊	😊	😊	😊	?	More narrow than 'Glauca', not as durable
✓✓	25x14	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i> 'Burkii' - Blue Burkii Juniper	😞	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	Steel-blue color, lacks interesting cones
✓✓✓	25x15	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i> 'Canaertii' - Canaert Juniper	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	Attractive lumpy form, proven durability
✓✓	20x12	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i> 'Cupressifolia' - Hillspire Juniper	😞	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	Green, keeps winter color, durable
✓✓	23x10	<i>J. virg.</i> Emerald Sentinel' - Emerald Sentinel Juniper	😞	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	Dark green color
✓	20x8	<i>J. virginiana</i> 'Prairie Sentinel' - Prairie Sentinel Juniper	😞	😊	😊	😊	😊	?	Grey-green color, slower grower
✓✓	18x5	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i> 'Taylor' - Taylor Upright Juniper	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	Italian cypress look, durable, species color

FIR / YEW

✓	40x18	<i>Abies balsamea</i> - Balsam Fir	😱	😱	😱	😱	😱	?	Poor performance in KC
✓✓	45x25	<i>Abies concolor</i> - White Fir	😊	😱	😱	😱	😱	😞	Beautiful, needs excellent drainage, variable
✓✓	25x14	<i>Abies concolor</i> 'Candicans' - Candicans Fir	😊	😱	😱	😱	😱	😞	White-blue color very impressive
✓	30x16	<i>Abies fraseri</i> - Fraser Fir	😱	😞	😱	😱	😱	?	Very few good trees in KC, many failures
✓	30x20	<i>Abies homolepis</i> - Nikko Fir	😊	😞	😱	😊	😱	?	Very few good trees in KC, many failures
✓	15x6	<i>Abies koreana</i> - Korean Fir	😊	😱	😱	😊	😱	?	Heat and drought sensitive
✓	35x16	<i>Abies nordmanniana</i> - Nordman Fir	😊	😞	😞	😊	😊	?	Very few good trees, but shows promise
✓✓	40x20	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> - Douglas Fir	😞	😞	😞	😱	😞	😊	Very few nice older specimens in KC
✓✓✓	20x14	<i>Taxus cuspidata</i> 'Capitata' - Pyramidal Japanese Yew	😊	😞	😊	😱	😞	😞	Great evergreen for shade, needs drainage
✓✓✓	15x9	<i>Taxus x media</i> 'Hicksii' - Hicks Upright Yew	😞	😊	😊	😞	😊	😊	More upright/round form than Cap Yew

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MISC. NEEDED EVERGREENS

✓	30x14	<i>Calocedrus decurrens</i> – Incense-Cedar	😬	😞	😞	😬	😬	?	Does well in SW KS, but not tested in KC
✓✓	30x16	<i>Cedrus atlantica</i> ‘Glaucu’ – Blue Atlas Cedar	😊	😱	😬	😞	😬	😞	Nice specimen if winters stay mild
✓	30x15	<i>C. deodara</i> ‘Karl Fuchs’ – Blue Himalayan Cedar	😬	😱	😞	😞	😬	?	Blue fades to grey, cold tolerant
✓	25x12	<i>Cedrus deodara</i> ‘Electric Blue’ – Blue Him.Cedar	😬	😱	😱	😞	😬	?	More dense, less cold tolerant than ‘K.Fuchs’
✓	30x25	<i>Cedrus libani</i> v. <i>stenocoma</i> – Cedar of Lebanon	😬	😱	😞	😱	😬	?	Not holding up in KC, no thriving old trees
✓	18x9	<i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i> – Lawson Falsecypress	😬	😱	😞	😬	😞	?	Interesting horizontal twig structure
✓✓	24x10	<i>Chamaecyparis nootkatensis</i> – Weeping Alaska Cedar	😊	😱	😞	😬	😱	😬	Interesting specimen, doing well in KC
✓✓	12x8	<i>Cham. pisifera</i> ‘Filifera’ – Japanese Falsecypress	😊	😞	😬	😬	😞	😬	Internal needles die but can be trimmed
✓✓	15x9	<i>Cham. pisifera</i> ‘Boulevard’ - Blvd. Falsecypress	😬	😱	😬	😬	😞	😬	Can look a bit rough with age, but does well
✓	35x20	<i>Cryptomeria japonica</i> – Japanese Cedar	😞	😱	😱	😞	😬	?	Very few surviving trees in KC
✓	30x14	<i>Cupressus arizonica</i> – Arizona Cypress	😞	😞	😞	😱	😊	?	Seed source/cultivar is important
✓	20x7	<i>C. arizonica</i> ‘Cook’s Peak’ – Cook’s Peak-Cypress	😞	😞	😬	😱	😊	?	Appears to be cold hardy, blue foliage
✓	25x10	<i>Cupressus arizonica</i> ‘Blue Ice’ – Blue Ice Cypress	😬	😞	😞	😱	😊	?	Blue foliage, cold hardiness in question
✓✓	25x10	<i>Sciadopitys verticillata</i> – Japanese Umbrella Pine	😬	😱	😱	😞	😱	😱	Very slow, needs winter shade, needs love
✓	30x15	<i>Sequoiadendron giganteum</i> – Giant Redwood	😱	😱	😱	😱	😱	?	Not suited for KC’s climate
✓	30x15	<i>Seq. giganteum</i> ‘Hazel Smith’ – Giant Redwood	😬	😱	😱	😱	😱	?	Blue color, hates KC humidity, but can survive
✓✓✓	45x25	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i> – Canadian Hemlock	😞	😞	😞	😱	😱	😞	Needs winter wind protection and good soil

HOLLY/MAGNOLIA (BROADLEAF EVERGREENS ONLY)

✓✓✓	20x12	<i>Ilex x attenuata</i> ‘Fosteri’ – Foster’s #2 Holly	😬	😬	😬	😞	😞	😞	Needs winter wind protection
✓✓✓	20x12	<i>Ilex x attenuata</i> ‘Greenleaf’ – Greenleaf Holly	😬	😬	😞	😞	😞	😞	Chlorosis, needs winter wind protection
✓✓✓	8x7	<i>Ilex x</i> ‘Blue Maid’ – Blue Maid Holly	😱	😞	😬	😞	😱	😞	Needs winter wind protection
✓✓	14x7	<i>Ilex x</i> ‘Centennial Girl’ – Centennial Girl Holly	😞	😊	😬	😞	😱	😞	Needs winter wind protection
✓	14x6	<i>Ilex x</i> ‘Dragon Lady’ – Dragon Lady Holly	😞	😞	😞	😞	😞	?	Rare to succeed in KC
✓✓	6x5	<i>Ilex x</i> ‘Honey Maid’ – Honey Maid Holly	😞	😱	😱	😞	😱	😱	Creamy white leaf margin, often fails
✓	9x5	<i>Ilex x meserveae</i> ‘Hackenfee’ - Castle Spire Holly	😊	😬	😬	😞	😱	?	Good fruit production, needs male in area
✓	9x5	<i>Ilex x meserveae</i> ‘Hackenstar’ - Castle Wall Holly	😬	😬	😬	😞	😱	?	Male pollinator for ‘Castle Spire’
✓	18x9	<i>Ilex x</i> ‘Nellie R. Stevens’ – Nellie Stevens Holly	😞	😞	😱	😞	😱	?	Needs shelter, but often killed to ground
✓✓✓	35x18	<i>Ilex opaca</i> – American Holly	😊	😬	😬	😞	😞	😊	Species is variable, but many old specimens
✓	20x15	<i>Ilex penunculosa</i> – Longstock Holly	😱	😱	😱	😬	😱	?	Not heat or drought tolerant
✓	10x5	<i>Ilex x</i> ‘Rutzan’ – Red Beauty Holly	😊	😊	😬	😞	😞	?	Tough holly with excellent fruit production
✓	40x20	<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> ‘DD Blanchard’ Magnolia	😊	😊	😬	😊	😬	?	Large flowers, seems superior to ‘Bracken’s’
✓✓✓	30x20	<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> ‘Bracken’s Brown’ Magnolia	😊	😬	😬	😬	😬	😊	No protection needed, heavy snow breakage
✓✓	35x25	<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> ‘Edith Bogue’ Magnolia	😬	😬	😬	😬	😬	😞	More hardy than ‘Bracken’s’
✓✓	25x12	<i>M. virginiana</i> ‘Jim Wilson’ – Moonglow Sweetbay Mag.	😬	😬	😊	😊	😬	😬	Holds some foliage thru winter, fragrant
✓✓✓	25x14	<i>Magnolia virginiana</i> v. <i>australis</i> – Sweetbay Magnolia	😬	😬	😊	😊	😬	😬	Tolerates wet sites, needs winter moisture