

Cupressaceae

Cypress Family

Of the 130 species only three have reached NS, in two genera. Various species and cultivars are popular ornamentals. Needles and scales are opposite or whorled.

Key to genera

Erect tree or shrub; cones woody.

Thuja

Prostrate evergreen or dwarf shrub; cones berrylike.

Juniperus

Juniperus L.

Junipers

Trees and shrubs of the northern hemisphere, two are found in NS. The Common Juniper is native in Asia, Europe and North America and is an often used parent for cultivars, although rarely used itself. It is usually found in acidic soil and is intolerant of shade. These evergreens produce berrylike green fruits, which turn bluish upon maturity.

Key to species

Needles elongated, prickly, in whorls of 3, 7–22mm long.

Juniperus communis

Needles scalelike, 2–3mm long, opposite and overlapping, or becoming so.

J. horizontalis

Juniperus communis L.

Common Juniper; Ground Juniper; genévrier commun



Photo by David Mazerolle

Prostrate and creeping, this evergreen glaucous green in colour, with sharply pointed needles that are white above and green below. The fruit is covered in a waxy glucous coating. Our common form is var. *depressa* Pursh. Var. *montana* Aiton is a spare trailing form, with short, broad recurved needles, bearing a white stripe. Var. *communis* is erect and bushy, and is not widespread (Mount Saint Vincent University in a bog).

Occurring mainly in exposed localities, collections exist from southwestern NS, although it is best developed in northern

Cape Breton.

Common juniper grows well in sandy soils in old pastures, heaths and bogs. Common throughout, especially along the coast.

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NS to AK, south to CA, NM and FL Absent from the Gulf States.

***Juniperus horizontalis* Moench**
Creeping Juniper; genévrier horizontal



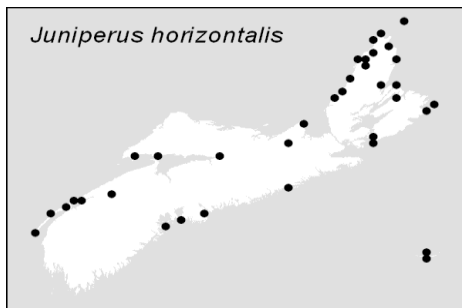
Photo by Sean Blaney

Another evergreen shrub; this species has scalelike leaves with imbricate bases. Fruit are carried on short recurved peduncles. Various cultivars are widely used in the nursery trade.

Rocky headlands, cliffs and bogs.

Scattered along the Bay of Fundy. Common in northern Cape Breton and on Sable Island. There have been few collections made on the Atlantic coast, such as Prospect, Halifax Co.

NF to AK, south to WY, IL and NY.



***Thuja* L.**
Cedar

Only two species of Arborvitae or Cedar are native to North America; a single species may be found in NS, but with both native and cultivated populations. The Eastern White Cedar was the first North American tree to be grown in Europe. A tree planted in Paris in 1553 is on record, preceding other North America tree species appearances by about 200 years.

Thuja occidentalis L.

Eastern White Cedar; *thuya occidentalis*



Photo by Megan Crowley

Evergreen and grayish green leaves are reduced to imbricate scales. Reddish brown twigs are covered with leaf remnants. Small cones are reduced to a few rugose scales.

Limited to wet acidic soil as on lakeshores, swamps and old pastures.

Native trees are known from the north-facing old pastures of the South Mountain above the Annapolis Valley as well as on the Valley floor, Yarmouth, Digby and Cumberland counties. All other localities are introduced trees.

NS to MB south to IA, TN and SC.

Native stands are RED-listed in NS.



Photo by Ross Hall

