

Village Garden Center & Landscape Service

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Transitioning the Live tree to cold weather.

A week after Christmas, move the tree to the garage before transferring it to the planting hole. Keeping it here for a day or two helps the fir acclimate to the cold. Cut away the wire basket around the root ball, loosens the burlap, and positions the tree in the hole. "You want the point where the root ball meets the trunk to be slightly higher than the natural grade, because there will be some settling,"



Safeguarding the Tree Against Freeze

Next shovel in the saved backfill. "Tamp it in well with the end of your shovel; if air gets in during winter, it will literally freeze-dry the roots," water well—"really soak it down"—and then mulch with the ground bark. "The mulch helps avoid wide fluctuations in soil temperature and conserves moisture," "And, in the same manner as with a shrub or tree planted in the spring, it should be watered regularly thereafter." "In five years," "this should be an eight-foot tree."

Pros vs. Cons of Eastern White Pine Trees

If you were composing a dictionary entry for "messy tree," you might very well insert a picture of an eastern white pine tree to serve as an example. Ironically, it would serve just as well as an example of a graceful, magnificent specimen plant. These facts present something of a dilemma to the homeowner seeking a visually appealing yet low-maintenance landscape.



Taxonomy

The scientific name for Eastern white pines in plant taxonomy is *Pinus strobus*. These plants can be categorized in various ways, including:

- | Gymnosperms
- | Conifers
- | Needled evergreens
- | Trees

A gymnosperm (as opposed to an angiosperm) bears seeds that are unprotected, rather than being enclosed in ovaries or fruits. The term comes from the Greek for "naked seed." As different as they look from Eastern white pine trees, Ginkgo biloba trees are also gymnosperms.

Identifying Features

While the West Coast has taller trees, eastern white pine is the biggest conifer native to eastern North America. It is commonly found as far north as Newfoundland and as far south as northern Georgia, a span covering growing zones 3 to 8. This behemoth can grow to be as tall as 80 feet and as wide as 40 feet.

Eastern white pine is the only pine tree in the East that bears five needles to a bundle. These bundles form clusters that look like little brushes. The tree's cones are cylindrical and are the largest pine cones found in many areas of the tree's range (the New England states, for example), reaching as much as 6 inches long. By comparison, the pine cones of a pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*) measure only about 3 1/2 inches long.

Drawbacks

Even lovers of evergreens have good reason to be down on Eastern white pines, especially Northerners. Whenever they get a bad ice storm or wet, heavy snowfall, they are reminded of the drawback of having large evergreen trees with brittle branches around.

Large Eastern white pine trees just don't mix well, in the wintertime, with wires, driveways, and houses. When dumped upon with heavy loads of snow or ice, their evergreen foliage holds an enormous amount of the frozen precipitation—too much for their relatively weak limbs to bear. The result is that the limbs come crashing down, taking out whatever's under them.

Nor is their messiness restricted to winter damage. You have to rake up the cones (which are very slow to decompose) in fall, adding to your leaf-removal chores, and the fallen needles insert themselves in the darnedest places. Furthermore, in spring, the pollen gets all over car windshields, and the pitch (sap) makes an even bigger mess. You can remove pitch from a windshield using a solvent (such as nail polish remover, mineral spirits, or rubbing alcohol), a rag, and a single-edge razor blade.

Benefits and Uses

Eastern white pines also have a lot of great features. They are large, fast-growing, and have a graceful figure. They make excellent windbreaks and shade trees and can be clipped into hedges. Their branches are also prized for crafts and decorations; the boughs are commonly employed in outdoor Christmas decorations using greenery. The pine cones, as well, come in handy in creating decorations, once you learn how to wire the cones.

While *Pinus strobus* is hardly a conventional hedge plant, it can be used effectively in this capacity. If you live in a rural area and have lots of *Pinus strobus* saplings on your property, they can easily be turned into a free hedge (as opposed to going to the nursery and buying shrubs). Dig them up while they're still young and plant them in a row, as you would any hedge. Then, head them back regularly to keep their growth in check.

Should You Grow Eastern White Pine Trees?

Given their benefits and potential uses, you shouldn't necessarily let the messiness of these trees scare you off. If you do want to plant them, make sure you have the room, and place the trees where falling branches (and even sap) won't be a significant problem. For example, you don't want their limbs hanging out over your house, car, power lines, or outdoor activity area. Growing them out in the open or along a property boundary is a safer option.

Alternatively, if you love the look of pines but have a small yard, it makes more sense to grow a dwarf variety, such as a Japanese dwarf pine tree.



How to Grow and Care for a Weeping Willow Tree

The weeping willow is probably the best known of the weeping trees, with gracefully arching stems that dangle delicately and shiver in the breeze. They make a great focal point in landscaping and add an elegant touch to a yard. The leaves of *Salix babylonica* are lance-shaped and grow three to six inches long; they turn yellow in the fall before dropping. The weeping willow's bark is rough and gray, with long, deep ridges. When the tree blooms in late winter or spring, yellow catkins (flowers) appear. Weeping willows are fast-growing trees, adding up to 10 feet per year when young, but its average lifespan is a relatively short 30 years.



- Botanical name: *Salix babylonica*
- | Common name: Weeping willows or Babylon willow
- | Plant type: Deciduous perennial
- | Mature size: 35 to 50 feet tall with an equivalent spread
- | Sun exposure: Full sun
- | Soil type: Rich and moist
- | Soil pH: Slightly acidic
- | Bloom time: Late winter, spring
- | Flower color: Yellow
- | Hardiness zones: 4 through 10
- | Native area: China

How to Grow Weeping Willows

Because weeping willows can reach 50 feet in height and width, they need a wide swath of lawn or yard to stretch into. They work well in areas that are naturally quite moist, but they tend to shed a lot of leaves and twigs so avoid planting them where falling branches can cause damage or injury. These specimens also should not be planted near sewer, septic tanks, or water lines: Their root systems are aggressive—sometimes stretching wider than the tree is tall—and not only do they seek out the nearest and most abundant source of water, but they are attracted to the nutrients in the soil around a septic system, as well as the oxygen in the drainage lines.

Light

Full sun and partial shade are best for this tree. It needs at least four hours of direct, unfiltered sunlight each day.

Soil

This tree is tolerant of a wide variety of well-draining soils and soil pH. Although it prefers moist, slightly acidic soil, it grows well in alkaline, loamy, rich, sandy, and clay soils. If your soil is too alkaline, add some organic matter to lower the pH.

Water

Willows like standing water. The long, far-reaching root system can be helpful in clearing up puddle- and flood-prone areas of a landscape. They also like to grow near ponds, streams, and lakes.

Temperature and Humidity

Weeping willows have some drought tolerance and can handle the winter cold. The tree can also tolerate summer desert heat as long as greenery and water are not too far away.

Fertilizer

A mature weeping willow does not require fertilizer if it is planted in rich soil and its leaves are a healthy green or nearby lawns are fertilized regularly. However, you can supply fertilizer to support lush growth.

A balanced fertilizer with an equal ratio of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium (such as a 20-20-20 formula) is appropriate for a weeping willow. Nitrogen supports foliage growth on the tree's long, weeping branches. Phosphorus supports the growth of roots, stems, and flowers. Potassium encourages overall health. If you plan to use organic fertilizer, steer manure is a good choice. It is a balanced combination of the main nutrients nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium.

Pruning

While the tree is young, prune it so that there is only one central leader. It should also be trained to have wide branch crotches to help prevent breakage, as the tree is somewhat brittle and can be susceptible to wind damage. It is a good idea to prune a weeping willow in February or March, snipping back all its branches. This will trigger the sprouting of new branches and will give the tree more vigor.

Common Pests and Diseases

Weeping willows can be struck by several pests, including the gypsy moth, aphids and borers. These insects are difficult to control—especially on large trees—but targeted spraying can help.

Young weeping willows are also tempting to deer, elk, and rabbits; place a collar around young trees to protect them from wildlife.

This tree may be affected by willow scab, crown gall, willow blight, black canker, fungi, cankers, leaf spot, tar spot, powdery mildew, rust, and root rot. Symptoms include branch or twig dieback and defoliation but in some cases, the disease can kill the tree. Plant disease resistant trees and provide adequate water to keep the tree healthy, since healthy trees are better able to fend off disease.

Rake up and remove leaf litter promptly, to control the spreading of disease.

Quercus phellos

Common name: Willow Oak

Pronunciation: KWER-kus FEL-os

Family: Fagaceae

Genus: Quercus

Type: Broadleaf

Native to (or naturalized in) Oregon:

Broadleaf deciduous tree, 50-60 ft (15-18 m), excurrent (ie., prolonged main axis from which lateral branches arise), oblong oval crown, fairly open (light shade), descending branches, (growth habit similar to a pin oak); stems slender, reddish-brown to dark brown. Leaves alternate, simple, 5-13 cm long, narrow (0.8-2.5 cm wide), elliptical or lance-shaped (willow-like), wavy entire margin. Autumn color yellow or russet red to red.

Small acorns, about 1.5 cm or less.

Sun, transplants easier than other oaks, has a fibrous root system. Prefers moist well-drained soil but can adapt to difficult habitats.

Hardy to USDA Zone 5 Native range from New York to Florida, west to Missouri and Texas.

phellos: according to Jacobson (1996) the term is an ancient Greek name for the cork oak (*Q. suber*), and for some reason Linnaeus applied it to this species.



Leaves in Fall



Trunck bark

Cleveland Select Ornamental Pear is an outstanding medium sized ornamental/shade tree for home landscapes. The stunning clusters of white flowers are the first of the season to emerge, and give way to dark green, glossy, heart-shaped leaves which turn to an outstanding deep red in fall. Being one of the last trees to lose its leaves in the fall, Cleveland Select Pear is one of the most impressive ornamental trees available. Compared to Aristocrat Pear, the Cleveland Select Pear has a much more narrow, pyramidal form which has a much more formal look. This tree is identical to the Chanticleer Pear, and a better alternative to Bradford Pear.



Where to put it:

Because of its size and shape, Cleveland Select Pear is extremely versatile in the landscape. Cleveland Select can be used anywhere from the parkway to the front landscape, and can provide shade as well as accent. This tree should be planted at least 15ft away from buildings.



What it needs:

Cleveland Select is an extremely tolerant tree which can grow in almost any conditions.

Botanical Name *Pyrus calleryana* 'Cleveland Select'

Hardiness Zone 4

Tree Type Shade, Ornamental & Flowering

Size Range Medium Tree (25-40 feet)

Mature Height 40'

Mature Spread 20'

Shape Pyramidal

Foliage Color Dark Green

Fall Color Red

Flower Color White

New Horizon Elm

Ulmus japonica x pumila

'New Horizon'

Garden locations

Culture

Grow in average, medium moisture, well-drained soils in full sun. Tolerant of light shade. Prefers rich, moist loams. Adapts to both wet and dry sites. Generally tolerant of urban conditions. Regular pruning and spraying is advisable.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Ulmus is a genus of about 45 species of mainly trees and a few shrubs from found in the North Temperate regions. Plants are usually deciduous but some species are semi-evergreen.

Genus name comes from the Latin name.

'New Horizon' is a compact, upright, rapid-growing, hybrid elm that typically matures over time to 40' tall and to 25' wide. It is the result of a cross between *Ulmus pumila* (Siberian elm) and *Ulmus davidiana* var. *japonica* (Japanese elm). It reportedly has excellent resistance to Dutch elm disease. Non-showy, small green flowers appear in spring before the foliage emerges. Flowers give way to single-seeded, wafer-like samaras (each tiny seed is surrounded by a flattened oval-rounded papery wing). Seeds mature in April-May as the leaves reach full size. Ovate-elliptic, dark green leaves (to 4" long) have double serrate margins, acuminate tips and asymmetrical bases. Fall color is not showy. U.S. Plant Patent PP08,684 was issued on April 12, 1994.

Problems

'New Horizon' has excellent resistance to Dutch elm disease, elm leaf miner, black leaf spot and verticillium wilt. Phloem necrosis, wetwood, various wilts, rots and cankers may occur. Insect visitors may include borers, leaf miner, beetles, mealy bugs, caterpillars and scale.

Garden Uses

May be used as a lawn, shade or street tree.



TRIUMPH™ elm

The TRIUMPH™ elm has very good resistance to Dutch elm disease (DED) and is resistant to elm yellows; it also has good resistance to elm leaf beetle. It is easily transplanted, quick to establish, and adaptable to most soil types. Large, lustrous, dark green summer foliage gives way to yellow fall color. Useful for home and commercial landscapes or parks or as street tree.

The Triumph™ Elm, *Ulmus 'Morton Glossy'*, is a selection that resulted from a controlled cross between Vanguard™ Elm and Accolade® Elm, conducted by Dr. George Ware at the Morton Arboretum.

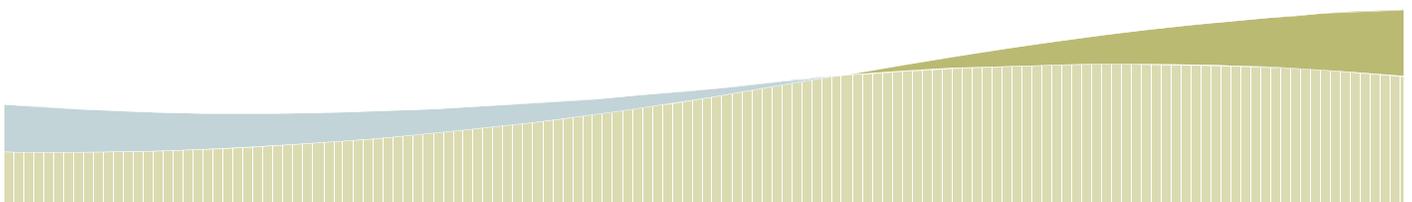
Introduced through Chicagoland Grows®, it has an upright habit with strong branching, large, lustrous dark green foliage and excellent disease and pest resistance.

Triumph™ develops softly arching branches as it matures. Elms are adaptable to a wide variety of soil conditions and come in graceful, vase-shaped and weeping forms.

Elms prefer full sun and adapt easily to extremes in pH, moisture, wind and heat. The aggressive roots can probably break sidewalks and raise pavement if trees are improperly located.

Elms are back! This attractive Triumph™ Elm makes an excellent shade tree for home and commercial landscapes, parks or as a street tree.

- Dutch Elm Disease & Pest Resistant
- Arching Yet Upright Branching
- Dark Green Foliage
- Aggressive Roots



Chionanthus virginicus

Chionanthus virginicus L.

White Fringetree,
Fringe Tree, Snowflower Tree,
Flowering Ash,
Old Man's Beard,
Grandfather Graybeard,
Grancy Graybeard

Oleaceae (Olive Family)

Synonym(s): *Chionanthus virginicus* var. *Maritimus*



The primary attraction of this 15-30 ft., deciduous tree or shrub is the drooping clusters of fragrant, white blossoms. Dark-blue, grape-like clusters of fruits are produced from female blossoms. The numerous delicate, fragrant, white-to-greenish-white flowers are composed of 4-6 strap-shaped petals 1 inch long by 1/16 inch wide. They hang in showy, branched clusters 4-6 inches long. Flowers open before or with the first leaves. Other features are dark-green, glossy foliage and a pale-gray trunk with bands of white. Leaves are deciduous, opposite, 4-8 inches long and 1/4 inch wide; the petiole is 1 inch long. Fall color is usually not significant. Shrub or small tree with short trunk, narrow, oblong crown, and showy masses of fragrant, lacy, white flowers.

One of the last trees to bear new leaves in spring, it appears dead until the leaves and flowers appear. The genus name *Chionanthus*, meaning snow and flower, describes the blossoms.



Fall color



Leftover Ham -n- Potato Casserole

"An easy cheesy dish that uses up that Christmas or Easter ham! My family looks forward to this one!"

Ingredients

1 h 15 m 6 servings 578 cal



- +6 small potatoes, peeled and cubed
- +3 tablespoons butter
- +2 cups cubed fully cooked ham
- +1 small onion, finely chopped
- +1/4 cup butter
- +3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- +1 1/2 cups milk
- +salt and ground black pepper to taste
- +1 (8 ounce) package shredded Cheddar cheese
- +1/4 cup bread crumbs

Directions

1. Place potatoes into a large pot and cover with salted water; bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium-low and simmer until tender, about 20 minutes. Drain.
2. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
3. Grease a 1 1/2-quart baking dish.
4. Melt 3 tablespoons butter in a skillet over medium heat. Stir in the ham and onion; cook and stir until the onion has softened and turned translucent, about 5 minutes.
5. Stir potatoes into ham mixture; transfer to the prepared baking dish.
6. Melt 1/4 cup butter in a saucepan over medium heat. Stir flour into melted butter until smooth.
7. Gradually whisk milk into flour mixture; season with salt and black pepper. Continue cooking and stirring until thickened, about 2 minutes.
8. Reduce heat to medium-low and stir Cheddar cheese into the white sauce until melted.
9. Pour sauce over ham and potatoes.
10. Sprinkle bread crumbs atop casserole.
11. Bake in the preheated oven until sauce is bubbly and browned, 25 to 30 minutes.

King Crab Appetizers

Ingredients

30 m 12 servings 299 cal



- 2 (12 ounce) packages refrigerated biscuit dough
- 1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese, softened
- 1 (6 ounce) can crab meat, drained
- 2 tablespoons mayonnaise
- 2 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/2 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
- 2 tablespoons thinly sliced green onion
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- pinch paprika

Directions

Prep

10 m

Cook

20 m

Ready In

30 m

- 1 .Preheat oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C). Lightly grease 12 tartlet pans.
- 2 .Divide rolls in half and press into the prepared tartlet pans. Set aside.
- 3 .In a large bowl, combine cream cheese, crab, mayonnaise, Parmesan cheese, Cheddar cheese, green onions and Worcestershire sauce. Spoon 1 teaspoon of mixture into tarts and garnish with paprika.
4. Bake at 375 degrees F (190 degrees C) for 15 to 20 minutes, or until light brown. These freeze wonderfully. Just reheat before serving.

New Years Eve Champagne Punch

Easy and delicious New Years Eve Champagne Punch! This amazing champagne punch only has 5 ingredients, but tastes like a dream. So bright, sweet and bubbly.

Ingredients

- 2 bottles champagne, or another sparkling wine
- 750 ml Ruby Port, 1 bottle
- 2 cups fresh grapefruit juice
- 1/2 cup simple syrup, 1:1 ratio
- Grapefruit slices, for garnish

Instructions

1. Place all ingredients in a large punch bowl filled with ice. Large ice works best here, so that the punch is able to hold without diluting too fast (if you don't have large ice molds, you could freeze large blocks of ice in Tupperware containers).
2. Garnish with fresh grapefruit slices.

Serving: 1 glass, Calories: 78kcal, Carbohydrates: 12g, Protein: 1g, Fat: 1g, Sodium: 7mg, Potassium: 65mg, Fiber: 1g, Sugar: 10g, Vitamin C: 5.3mg, Calcium: 5mg, Iron: 0.4mg





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