

Hidden Mysteries of Conifers in 2001[©]

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***Cedrus deodara* 'Snowsprite'**. Conical coniferous tree with spreading branches, pendent shoot tips with dark brown bark. The needles are 1.5 to 2 inches and a silvery-glaucous color which are produced in whorls of 20 to 30. Matures 20 ft in height by 10 ft wide. Propagated by grafting onto *C. deodara*. Great specimen that is highly under used. Hardy in Zones 7 to 9.

***Cedrus atlantica* 'Glauca Pendula', weeping blue Atlas cedar**. A evergreen coniferous tree with fissured, silvery gray bark. This cultivar offers branches that cascade like water. Produces sharply pointed roughly four-sided, glaucous blue 1-inch foliage. Matures at trained height of 20 to 30 ft wide. Propagated by grafting onto *C. deodara*. Needs to be staked for height. Hardy in Zones 6 to 9.

***Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* 'Golden Showers'**. A large growing yellow upright evergreen. Most branches hang down as in a shower of gold. Grows 6 to 12 inches each year. Needs to be grafted onto *Cupressus leylandii* for warmer climates. Matures at 10 ft in height by 5 ft wide. Hardy in Zones 5 to 7.

***Chamaecyparis thyoides* 'Pomona'**. This is a fine-textured cultivar. Very narrow almost columnar in shape. 'Pomona' may only reach 24 to 30 inches in height and 8 inches wide. True miniature for the conifer garden. Propagated by cuttings. Hardy in Zones 3 to 8.

***Cryptomeria japonica* 'Benjamin Franklin' Japanese cedar**. 'Benjamin Franklin' is a very strong cultivar that has withstood -20°F temperatures during 1987 freeze without any damage. 'Ben Franklin' keeps its shape. Matures 20 ft in height by 6 ft wide. Propagated by cuttings. Testing for hardiness to push Japanese cedar farther north. Hardy in Zones 6 to 9.

***Cupressus arizonica* 'Sulphurea'**. Conical coniferous evergreen tree smooth reddish purple bark. Pointed, glaucous, yellow-gray needles arranged in dense sprays. Great specimen plant. Matures 15 ft in height by 5 ft wide. Propagated by cuttings. Hardy in Zones 7 to 9.

× ***Cupressocyparis leylandii* 'Gold Rider' (syn. *Cupressus* × *leylandii* 'Gold Rider')**. Raised from a sport in the 1980s, from Holland. Considered rare for a Leyland cypress. This cultivar is a better yellow than the other cultivars. 'Gold Rider' endures full sun without burning. Matures 15 ft in height by 3 ft wide. Propagated by cuttings. Hardy in Zones 5 to 9.

***Glyptostrobus pensilis* 'Wooley Mammoth', Yadkin Valley Nursery selection 2001**. This selection is known to be extinct. This is a selection of the Canton water pine. 'Wooley Mammoth' has a very strong upright growing habit. Purple stems on the new growth. Compound foliage with very soft and fine needles. A semideciduous, most unusual specimen plant. It is extremely rare. Matures 20 ft in height by 8 ft wide. Propagated by cuttings. Currently testing to find hardiness limits.

***Picea glauca* var. *albertiana* 'Conica' wicche's broom.** This Alberta spruce will be grafted and evaluated to test for growth and if it is a dwarf form. Usually "witches brooms" tend to show neat characteristics of a dwarf form of parent. Propagated by grafting onto *P. abies*. Currently testing to find hardiness limits.

***Picea pungens* 'Fat Albert'.** Dense upright pyramidal form with good blue color. The needles are covered in glaucous wax. Matures 30 ft in height by 15 ft wide. Propagated by grafting onto *P. abies*. Hardy in zones 2 to 7.

***Picea pungens* 'Globosa', globe blue spruce.** A compact, rounded, evergreen shrub that at maturity is wider than high. Matures 5 ft in height and 6 ft wide. Propagated by grafting onto *P. abies*. Hardy in Zones 2 to 7.

***Pinus densiflora* 'Oculus-draconis', dragon-eye pine.** 'Oculus-draconis' is a broadly conical to rounded shrub. Slender to bright green 3- to 5-inch needles that have two distinctive yellow bands on each needle. Needles are borne in pairs. Matures at 20 ft in height by 15 ft wide. Propagated by grafting onto *P. thunbergii*. A must for variegated plant lovers. Hardy in Zones 4 to 7.

***Pinus densiflora* 'Tanyosho Special'.** This red pine is known as the "table top pine". It is a green compact form of Japanese red pine which has a flat "table top" appearance as the plant ages. Also has a neat exfoliating bark as plant ages. Matures 5 ft in height by 5 ft wide. Propagated by grafting low or high onto *P. thunbergii*. Hardy in Zones 4 to 9.

***Pinus koraiensis* 'Glaucal Blue', Korean pine.** Broadly conical evergreen tree or shrub. Has shiny, deep green 2.5- to 5-inch needles, with silvery white bands on the inner sides. Matures at 70 ft in height by 25 ft wide. Propagated by grafting onto *P. strobus*. It can take hard pruning. Hardy in Zones 4 to 7.

***Pinus parviflora* 'Bonsai', bonsai Japanese pine.** Conical or columnar evergreen tree that offers $\frac{1}{4}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ twisted, blue-green needles that have whitish blue inner sides with twisted habit. Matures 12 ft in height by 4 ft wide. Propagated by grafting onto *P. strobus*. Great specimen. Hardy in Zones 4 to 8.

***Pinus strobus* 'Pendula', weeping white pine.** Weeping evergreen tree that has hanging branchlets which cascade to the ground. Propagated by grafting onto *P. strobus*. Matures 30 ft in height by 10 ft wide. A true specimen to be collected by the plant connoisseur. Hardy in Zones 3 to 8.

***Pinus wallichiana* 'Zebrinus', Himalayan or Bhutan pine.** Conical evergreen tree when young, developing a broad, domed crown. Arching to pendent, 6-inch needles that are blue, green, white, and yellow at the same time. Plant has a creamy-yellow cast to it. Matures 15 ft in height and 7 ft wide in 20 years. Propagated by grafting onto *P. strobus*. Great specimen plant. Hardy in Zones 6 to 9.

***Sciadopitys verticillata* 'Monolith', Yadkin Valley Nursery selection 2001.** This clone, was selected for its very narrow and slender form. Our stock seedling is about 9 ft in height and only 24 inches at base at 20 yr. Very rare in cultivation due to its difficulty in propagation. This rare specimen conifer is propagated by cuttings. Hardy in Zones 5 to 9.

***Thuja occidentalis* 'Sudworth Gold'.** Nice full upright conifer, foliage golden-yellow with a hint of orange in winter. Matures 15 ft in height by 5 ft wide in 25 years.

Fully compact to the ground. Propagated by cuttings. Hardy in Zones 4 to 8.

***Thuja* (Syn. *Platyclusus*) *orientalis* 'Erecta' Cupressaceae.** This is a highly underused specimen, a very dense upright hardy evergreen shrub. Matures 12 ft in height by 5 ft wide. Propagated by cuttings. Hardy in Zones 2 to 7.

From Seed to Seed: Producing Native Grass and Wildflower Seed for the National Park Service[®]

Jennifer L. Kujawski

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As part of the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, the National Plant Materials Center (NPMC) in Beltsville, Maryland, has had a changing role over time. The Center has come a long way from its inception in the 1930s as an observation station for introduced conservation plants to its current role as an innovative regional facility focused on selecting both native and introduced plant species and developing technology for controlling erosion, improving water quality, enhancing wildlife habitat, and revitalizing pasture lands. The goal of the Plant Materials Program is to make improved plants and information available to land owners and managers. In addition to its traditional conservation plant activities, the NPMC has been involved in a unique cooperative effort with the National Park Service (NPS) that has established the Center as a leader in native plant production techniques. This cooperative work has been a result of the mandate within many National Parks that revegetation must be completed with native plant germplasm collected from within Park boundaries. Since the late 1980s, the NPMC has propagated and delivered plants of over 125 native species to various National Parks in the region, from black gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*) and poison sumac (*Toxicodendron vernix*) to woodland sunflower (*Helianthus divaricatus*), lady fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*), and Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*). Parks served by the NPMC over the years have included Cumberland Gap National Park (Tennessee and Kentucky), Shenandoah National Park (Virginia), Great Smoky Mountains National Park (Tennessee), George Washington Memorial Parkway (Virginia), and Oxon Run Parkway (Washington D.C.).

While woody plant production methods have been well defined by many nurseries and the Forest Service, methods for growing plugs and establishing seed production fields for herbaceous natives have been much more experimental at our facility. The "seed to seed" process is how we are able to generate large seed increase fields from small amounts of seed wild-collected at National Parks. It begins with a little as a handful of seeds collected into a paper bag by NPMC or NPS staff or college students hired expressly for the purpose. Since the aim is not to strip a single area of all its seed but rather to assemble a representative sample from a native plant population, generally small batches are collected from several locations (if possible) and combined.

When the seeds reach the NPMC, they may have bits of leaves or pieces of stem mixed in, but the lots are too small to run through our large seed cleaning machinery, so hand cleaning is necessary. We have a small but enthusiastic volunteer force to