

Thuja occidentalis

Scientific classification

Kingdom : Plantae
Division : Pinophyta
Class : Pinopsida
Order : Pinales
Family : Cupressaceae
Genus : *Thuja*
Species : *T. occidentalis*



Thuja occidentalis

Description:

Unlike the closely related western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*), northern white cedar is only a small or medium-sized tree, growing to a height of 15 m (49 ft) tall with a 0.9 m (3.0 ft) trunk diameter, exceptionally to 38 metres (125 ft) tall and 1.8 metres (5.9 ft) diameter.^[8] The tree is often stunted or prostrate in less favorable locations. The bark is red-brown, furrowed and peels in narrow, longitudinal strips. Northern white cedar has fan-like branches and scaly leaves. The foliage forms in flat sprays with scale-like leaves 3–5 millimetres ($\frac{1}{8}$ – $\frac{3}{16}$ in) long.

Medicinal uses:

Thuja occidentalis is a tree with important uses in traditional Ojibwe culture. It is one of the four plants of the Ojibwe medicine wheel, associated with the north. Due to the presence of the neurotoxic compound thujone, internal use can be harmful if used for prolonged periods or while pregnant. It is commercially used for rustic fencing and posts, lumber, poles, shingles, and in the construction of log cabins.