

Understanding Conifer Names

LATIN ELEMENTS IN CONIFER NAMES	
Alba	White
Argentea	Silver
Aurea	Gold
Caesia	Lavender
Glauca	Blue or Blue grey (also refers to the waxy substance found on leaves)
Lutea	Yellow
Lutescens	Yellowish
Nigra	Black
Viridis	Green
Atrovirens	Dark Green

DESCRIPTIVE LATIN NAMES (mostly to do with leaf or needle shape)	
Adpressa	Pressed into close contact
Baccata	Berry bearing
Fastigiata / Fastigiate	Erect growth on upward pointing branches
Gracilis	Slender
Cuspidata	Tooth like or pointed
Falcata	Sickle shaped
Filifera / Filiformis	Thread like or thread leafed
Glabra	Hairless
Nana	Dwarf
Obtusa	Rounded at point or blunt tipped
Plicata	Fan shaped
Pendula	Weeping
Plumosa	Feathery
Procumbens	Creeping
Prostrata	Lying flat or prostrate
Pungens (1)	Strong smelling
Pungens (2)	Ending in a stiff sharp point
Repanda	Wavy edged
Repens	Creeping or flat
Stricta	Upright or straight
Sylvestris	Forest type

ENGLISH COMMON NAMES FOR CONIFERS	
Abies	Fir
A. Pinsapo	Spanish Fir
A. Procera	Noble Fir
Cedrus	Cedar
Cedrus Atlantica	Atlas Cedar
Cedrus Deodara	Himalayan Cedar
Calocedrus Decurrans	Incense Cedar
Chamaecyparis	False Cypress
Chamaecyparis Lawsoniana	Lawsons Cypress
Chamaecyparis Nootkatensis	Alaska Cedar
Chamaecyparis Obtusa	Hinoki Cypress
Chamaecyparis Pisifera	Sarawa Cypress
Chamaecyparis Thyoides	Atlantic White Cedar
Cryptomeria Japonica	Japanese Cedar
Cupressus	Cypress
Cupressus Glabra	Arizonica Cypress
Cupressus Macrocarpa	Monterey Cypress
Ginkgo Biloba	Maidenhair Tree
Juniperus	Juniper
Juniperus Chinensis	Chinese Juniper
Juniperus Chinensis Kaizuka	Hollywood Juniper
Juniperus Communis	Common Juniper
Juniperus Hibernica	Irish Juniper
Juniperus Suecica	Swedish Juniper
Juniperus Conferta	Shore Juniper
Juniperus Procumbens	Japanese Garden Juniper
Juniperus Squamata	Nepal Juniper
Picea	Spruce
Picea Abies	Norway Spruce
Picea Abies Nidiformis	Bird's Nest Spruce
Picea Glauca	White Spruce
Picea Pungens	Colorado Spruce
Picea Sitchensis	Sitka Spruce
Pinus	Pine
Pinus Densiflora	Japanese Red Pine
Pinus Umbraculifera	Tanyosho Pine
Pinus Mugo	Dwarf Mountain Pine
Pinus Nigra	Black Pine
Pinus Sylvestris	Scots Pine
Pseudotsuga Menzii	Douglas Fir or Oregon Pine
Sequoia Sempervirens	Redwood

Sequoiadendron	The Big Tree , Giant Redwood, Wellingtonia
Taxodium Distichum	Swamp Cypress
Taxus	Yew
Taxus Baccata	English Yew
Taxus Baccata Fastigiata	Irish Yew
Taxus Baccata Semperaurea	Evergold English Yew
Thuja Occidentalis	American Arborvitae
Thuja Orientalis	Chinese Arborvitae
Thuja Plicata	Western Red Arborvitae
Thujopsis Dolbrata	Broad Leaved Arborvitae
Tsuga	Hemlock
Tsuga Canadensis	Eastern Hemlock

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