

# COLUMNAR PLANTS

## Narrow Plants for Tight Spots

Small urban lots place many constraints on plant choices. Columnar plants can be strategic solutions for these situations. In addition, tall and narrow shapes provide a very strong structural element to gardens of all sizes. The following list offers some suggestions of columnar to conical (cone-shaped) plants for a tight area.

Plants are subject to seasonal availability.

Those with an \* are evergreen.

### 10' TALL & UNDER

\***Buxus semp 'Graham Blandy'**- A narrow form of English boxwood. Grows 3-6"/year in height. But is not wider than 3'. Full sun to part shade.

**Berberis thunbergii 'Helmond Pillar'**-A deciduous barberry with dark maroon leaves. It matures at 4-5' tall and 2' wide. Requires full sun.

\***Chamaecyparis lawsoniana 'Blue Surprise'**- Soft feathery powder blue foliage with purple tints in winter. Matures at 8' tall and 2-3' wide. Full sun and excellent drainage.

\***Chamaecyparis pisifera 'Boulevard'**- Very soft blue curly foliage with purple tints in winter. Slow to 8-12' tall and 4-6' wide. Full sun, good drainage.

\***Chamaecyparis thyoides 'Red Star'**-Tiny, green, star-shaped foliage turns maroon in winter. Slow growing dwarf conifer (1-3"/year) stays narrow. Requires full sun. Tolerant of many soil types.

\***Ilex crenata 'Sky Sentry', or 'Sky Pencil'**- Small, rounded, glossy leaves and black berries. Slow growing to 10' tall and 1 1/2' wide. Needs full to partial sun.

\***Juniperus communis 'Compressa'**- A conical plant with grey green foliage. Slow growing (3-6"/year) reaching 2' tall and 6" wide in ten years.

\***Juniperus communis 'Gold Cone'**- Bright yellow foliage in spring and summer. Grows 3-6"/year reaching 6' tall and 2' wide. Needs full sun and good drainage.

\***Picea glauca 'Conica'**- Dwarf Alberta Spruce. Cone-shaped plant with compact foliage. Grows 3"/year, to 8'-12' tall and 3-5' wide. Requires full sun.

\***Pinus sylvestris 'Sentinel'**- A dwarf and narrow form of Scott's pine with bluish needles and reddish bark. Slow growing to 4' tall and 1' wide in ten years. Needs full sun and good drainage.

\***Taxus baccata 'Amersfoort'**- An unusual yew with stubby, wide needles and distinctive structure. Grows 1-3"/year (no information on mature size). Full sun to partial shade.

\***Taxus x media 'Beanpole'**- A dense pillar of dark green foliage. Very slow growing (1-3"/year) indefinitely. Full sun to part shade. Protect from severe winter winds.

\***Thuja occidentalis 'Degroot's Spire'**- Very narrow form of arborvitae with spirally arranged foliage. Grows 6-12"/year indefinitely. To 8' tall and 1' wide in ten years. Full sun to partial shade.

# 10'-20' TALL

**\*Chamaecyparis obtusa 'Gracilis'**- Slender Hinoki Cypress. Artistic structure is complimented by dark green fan like foliage. Grows 3-6"/year reaching 20' tall x 4-5' wide. It can reach 30' in time. Full sun to part shade. Good drainage.

**Columnar Apples**- An apple that reaches 12' tall x 3' wide. White flowers with a pink blush in the spring and colorful fruits in the fall. Three varieties available, 'Golden Sentinel', 'North Pole', and 'Scarlet Sentinel'. Full sun.

**\*Ilex vomitoria 'Will Flemming'**- A dense column of tiny, shiny, dark green leaves. Grows 6-12"/year reaching 15' tall and 2-3' wide. Full sun to partial shade.

**\*Juniperus scopulorum 'Skyrocket'**- Silvery blue spire of scaly foliage. Grows 12"/year reaching 10-15' tall and 3-5' wide. Full sun and good drainage.

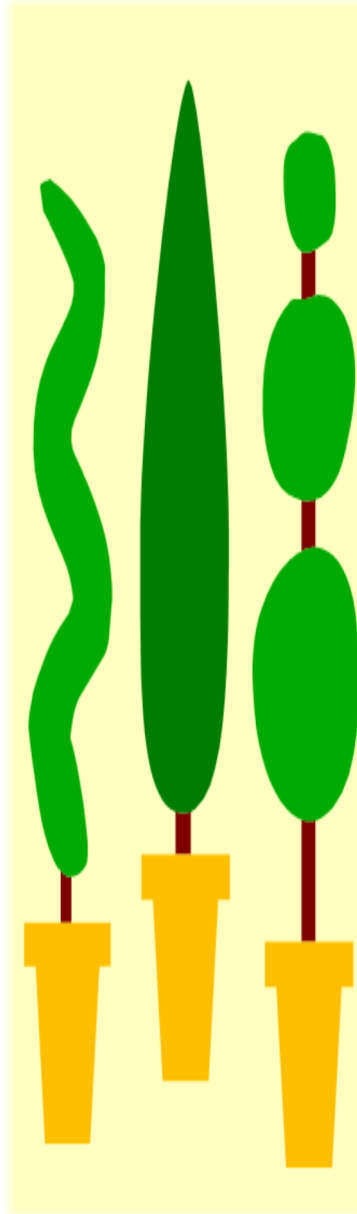
**\*Juniperus scopulorum 'Moonglow'**- Intense silver blue foliage creates a dense pyramid. Grows 12"/year reaching 15-20' tall and 5-8' wide. Full sun.

**Laburnum anagyroides 'Sunspire'**- Columnar Golden Chain Tree. Deciduous three lobed leaves and clusters of bright yellow pea shaped flowers in early summer. Green bark. Slow grower, 12-15' tall and 5-8' wide. Full sun.

**\*Pinus sylvestris 'Fastigata'**- Narrow form of Scotts pine. Thick blue green needles and reddish bark are a nice contrast. Grows 12"+/year reaching 20' tall and 3-4' wide. Full sun and good drainage.

**\*Taxus baccata 'Stricta'**- Irish Yew. Dark green spire. Slow growing (3-6"/year) eventually reaching 20' tall and 3-5' wide. Full sun to partial shade. Good drainage.

**\*Thuja occidentalis 'Holmstrup'**- Compact dark green foliage. Grows 6-12"/year. Conical habit, 8-12' tall 4-5' wide at base. Full sun to partial shade.



# OVER 20' TALL

**Acer rubrum 'Bowhall'**- Narrow form of red maple. Bright red fall color. Grows 1.7'/year. Matures at 40-50' tall and 10-15' wide. Full sun.

**Carpinus betulus 'Franz Fontaine'**- Hornbeam. A dense pyramid of textured leaves. Reaches 30' tall and 15' wide. Full sun.

**\*Cupressus sempervirens 'Tiny Tower', and 'Stricta'**- Italian Cypress. A classic in columnar plants. 'Tiny Tower' reaches 25' tall and 3-4' wide. 'Stricta' reaches 40-60' tall and 3-5' wide. Excellent drainage, shelter from severe winds and cold. Full sun.

**Fagus sylvatica 'Red Obelisk'**- One of several beech cultivars that are narrow. Maroon leaves in summer. Grows to 35' tall and 8' wide. Full sun.

**Koelreuteria paniculata 'Fastigiata'**- Golden Rain tree. Feathery, deciduous foliage is topped by sprays of yellow flowers in summer. Fast growing to 35' tall and 6' wide. Easy. Full sun.

**\*Pinus flexilis 'Vanderwolf's Pyramid'**- A soft pine with striking steel blue needles. Grows 16"/year. Reaches 30'+ tall and 10-15' wide. Full sun and good drainage.