

THUJA OCCIDENTALIS L.
Arbor Vitae

FAMILY: Cupressaceae

HABIT: An evergreen tree up to 20 meters tall.

SIMILAR SPECIES: It may superficially be confused with *Juniperus virginiana*, but differs by its scale-like leaves and small, elongate cones.

TOTAL RANGE: Quebec west to Manitoba, south to n. Minn., Wis., n. Ill., n. Ind., Ohio, N.Y., and Maryland; limy areas in the mts. of Kentucky, W.Va., Tenn., Virginia, and N.C.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Adams, Champaign, Clark, Delaware, Franklin, Greene, Highland, Lorain, Ross, and Scioto. Pre-1980 records are from Clermont, Ottawa, and Union. Braun (1961) also reports it from Erie and Mahoning counties. Some of these records may be of naturalized or planted shrubs.

HABITAT: Open to semi-open habitats on calcareous substrates; cliffs, limestone ledges, uplands, and fens.

HAZARDS: Overshading by taller, faster-growing woody species; deer browsing.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, possibly good, but this species grows very slowly.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect mature specimens.

COMMENTS: There are many cultivars of *T. occidentalis*, which makes identification difficult. An attempt should be made to determine if the population is native or adventive. Chambers (1993) notes that deer browsing greatly reduces reproductive success.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Braun, E.L. 1961. The woody plants of Ohio. The Ohio State Univ. Press, Columbus, OH. 362 pp.

Chambers, K.L. 1993. Thuja. 410-411. In *Flora of North America*, Volume 2: Pteridophyta and Gymnosperms. Oxford U. Press, N.Y., N.Y.

Young, J.A. and C.G. Young. 1992. Seeds of woody plants in North America. Dioscorides Press, Portland, OR. 407 pp.



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