UF IFAS Extension UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ PROGRAM

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Juniperus ashei: Ashe Juniper[1]

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Introduction

This multi-stemmed, native North American tree reaches 35 to 40 feet in height and has fragrant, resinous leaves. Although the flowers are small and insignificant, the fruits which follow, ripen in August and September into a large, blue, berry-like cone which is relished by wildlife. The bark of ashe juniper peels off in long, thin strips, which are used by birds for nesting material. The wood of ashe juniper is strong enough to have been used for posts and poles.



Figure 1. Mature *Juniperus ashei*: Ashe Juniper
Credit: Ed Gilman, UF/IFAS

General Information

Scientific name: *Juniperus ashei*

Pronunciation: joo-NIP-er-us ASH-ee-eye

Common name(s): Ashe juniper, mountain-cedar

Family: *Cupressaceae*

USDA hardiness zones: 7A through 9A (Fig. 2)

Origin: native to North America

Invasive potential: little invasive potential

Uses: tree lawn 3-4 feet wide; tree lawn 4-6 feet wide; tree lawn > 6 ft wide; street without sidewalk; screen; reclamation; specimen; highway median; bonsai

Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the tree

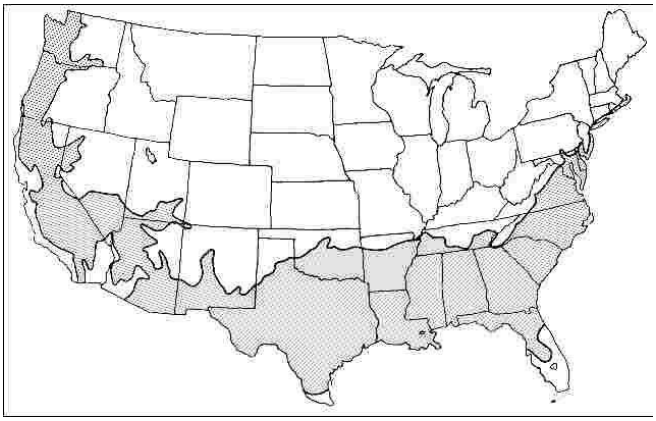

Figure 2. Range

Description

Height: 35 to 40 feet

Spread: 15 to 25 feet

Crown uniformity: irregular

Crown shape: columnar, pyramidal

Crown density: open

Growth rate: moderate

Texture: fine

Foliage
Leaf arrangement: opposite/subopposite

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: terminal spine

Leaf shape: scale-like

Leaf venation: none, or difficult to see

Leaf type and persistence: fragrant, evergreen

Leaf blade length: less than 2 inches

Leaf color: green

Fall color: no color change

Fall characteristic: not showy

Flower
Flower color: unknown

Flower characteristics: not showy

Fruit
Fruit shape: cone, round, oval

Fruit length: less than .5 inch

Fruit covering: fleshy

Fruit color: blue

Fruit characteristics: attracts birds; showy; fruit/leaves not a litter problem

Trunk and Branches
Trunk/bark/branches: branches don't droop; showy; typically one trunk; thorns

Pruning requirement: little required

Breakage: resistant

Current year twig color: green, gray, reddish

Current year twig thickness: thin

Wood specific gravity: unknown

Culture
Light requirement: full sun

Soil tolerances: clay; sand; loam; alkaline; acidic; well-drained

Drought tolerance: high

Aerosol salt tolerance: unknown

Other
Roots: not a problem

Winter interest: no

Outstanding tree: no

Ozone sensitivity: unknown

Verticillium wilt susceptibility: resistant

Pest resistance: free of serious pests and diseases

Use and Management
It can be found growing with a single trunk or in clumps. It is probably best used in landscapes which are not irrigated since it is susceptible to juniper blight. Many locations in the eastern part of the country are too humid to successfully grow this tree. It is most often found in the west and in the drier parts of Texas and Oklahoma.

Ashe juniper should be grown in full sun on well-drained soil and easily tolerates alkaline soil.

Propagation is by seed.

Pests
No pests are of major concern.

Diseases
Juniper blight can cause leaf discoloration and defoliation. Ashe juniper is reportedly resistant to cedarapple rust.

[1] This document is ENH480, one of a series of the UF/IFAS Department of Environmental Horticulture Department. Original publication date November 1993. Revised December 2006. Reviewed February 2014. Visit the Ask IFAS website at https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu for the currently supported version of this publication. © UF/IFAS. This publication is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 4.0 *To learn more about creating and maintaining attractive landscapes that protect Florida's water and natural resources, visit ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/*.

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