

# Dwarf Conifer – A Journey into the Miniature

By Bernie Dinter

Dwarf conifers allow the creation of gardens that fit your actual space. Gardens are shrinking as modern residences are built on smaller lots. Many species that we know as large trees are available in dwarf forms with their hardiness, interesting colours, textures and range of shapes. All the major conifer genera will be reviewed to show what is available to create a beautiful, small-scale garden.

## True Fir

*Abies balsamea* 'Nana'

*Abies concolor*

## True Cedar

*Cedrus deodora* 'Feeling Blue'

## Cedar of Lebanon

*Cedrus libani* 'Hedge Hog'

*Cedrus libani* 'Sargentii'

## Atlas Cedar

*Cedrus atlantica* 'Glauca Pendula'

## Japanese Plum Yew

*Cephalotaxus harringtonia* 'Fastigiata'

*Cephalotaxus harringtonia* 'Hedgehog'

*Cephalotaxus harringtonia* 'Prostrata'

## Yellow Cedar

*Chamaecyparis nootkatensis* 'Green Arrow'

*Chamaecyparis nootkatensis* 'Pendula'

## Port Orford Cedar

*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* 'Ellwoodiii'

*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* 'Stewartii'

*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* 'Minima Aurea'

## Hinoki Cypress

*Chamaecyparis obtusa* 'Nana Gracilis'

*Chamaecyparis obtusa* 'Nana Lutea'

## Threadbranch Cypress

*Chamaecyparis pisifera* 'Gold Mops'

*Chamaecyparis pisifera* 'Filifera'

**Sawara Cypress**

*Chamaecyparis pisifera* 'Boulevard'  
*Chamaecyparis pisifera* 'Golden Pin Cushion'

**Atlantic White Cedar**

*Chamaecyparis thyoides* 'Heatherbun'

**Japanese Cedar**

*Cryptomeria japonica* 'Elegans'  
*Cryptomeria japonica* 'Cristata'  
*Cryptomeria japonica* 'Globosa Nana'  
*Cryptomeria japonica* 'Tansu'  
*Cryptomeria japonica* 'Little Champion'  
*Cryptomeria japonica* 'Spiralis'  
*Cryptomeria japonica* 'Black Dragon'

**Italian Cypress**

*Cupressus sempervirens* 'Tiny Tower'

**Arizona Cypress**

*Cupressus arizonica* 'Raywoods Weeping'

**Monterey Cypress – Lemon Cypress**

*Cupressus macrocarpa* 'Wilma'  
*Cupressus macrocarpa* 'Wilma Goldcrest'

**Maidenhair Tree**

*Ginkgo biloba* 'Mariken'

**Juniper - Upright**

*Juniperus scopulorum* 'Skyrocket'  
*Juniperus scopulorum* 'Wichita Blue'  
*Juniperus communis* 'Compressa'  
*Juniperus horizontalis* 'Mother Lode'

**Juniper – Spreading**

*Juniperus x media* 'Old Gold'  
*Juniperus squamata* 'Blue Star'  
*Juniperus horizontalis* 'Wiltonii'  
*Juniperus sabina* 'Calgary Carpet'

**Larch**

*Larix kaempferi* 'Diana'  
*Larix decidua* 'Pendula'

**Norway Spruce**

*Picea abies* 'Pendula'  
*Picea abies* 'Little Gem'  
*Picea abies* 'Nidiformis'  
*Picea abies* 'Ohlendorffii'

**Alberta Spruce**

*Picea glauca* 'Conica'  
*Picea glauca* 'Jean's Dilly'  
*Picea glauca* 'Elf'  
*Picea glauca* 'Rainbow's End'

**Colorado Spruce**

*Picea pungens* 'Procumbens'  
*Picea pungens* 'Globosa'  
*Picea pungens* 'Sesters Dwarf'  
*Picea pungens* 'Pendula'

**Pine – Small Trees**

*Pinus sylvestris* 'Fastigiata'  
*Pinus sylvestris* 'Waterii'  
*Pinus cembra glauca*  
*Pinus parviflora*

**Dwarf Pine**

*Pinus mugo* 'Pumilio'  
*Pinus mugo* 'Slowmound'  
*Pinus sylvestris* 'Trollguld'  
*Pinus sylvestris* 'Beacon Hill'

**Pine – Unusual Varieties**

*Pinus contorta* 'Chief Joseph'  
*Pinus contorta* 'Taylor's Sunset'  
*Pinus mugo* grafted onto pine branches

**Plum or Yew Pine**

*Podocarpus laurincei* 'Blue Gem'  
*Podocarpus laurincei* 'Red Tip'

**Japanese Umbrella Pine**

*Sciadopitys verticillata* 'Mitsch Select'  
*Sciadopitys verticillata* 'Joe Kozey'  
*Sciadopitys verticillata* 'Picola'

**Bald or Pond Cypress**

*Taxodium distichum* 'Peve Minaret'

**Yew**

Taxus X H. M. Eddie  
Taxus cuspidata 'Dwarf Bright Gold'  
Taxus cuspidata 'Nana Aurescens'  
Taxus baccata 'Repandens'  
Taxus baccata 'Goldener Zwerg'

**Cedar or Arborvitae**

Thuja occidentalis 'Smaragd'  
Thuja occidentalis 'Danica'  
Thuja orientalis 'Aurea Nana'  
Thuja occidentalis 'Degroot's Spire'  
Thuja occidentalis 'Jantar'  
Thuja plicata 'Whipcord'  
Thuja orientalis 'Franky Boy'

**Hemlock**

Tsuga heterophylla  
Tsuga mertensiana  
Tsuga canadensis 'Pendula'  
Tsuga canadensis 'Coles Prostrate'  
Tsuga canadensis 'Jeddeloh'  
Tsuga diversifolia 'Minikin'

Blue Star Creeper – *Isotoma fluviatilis*