

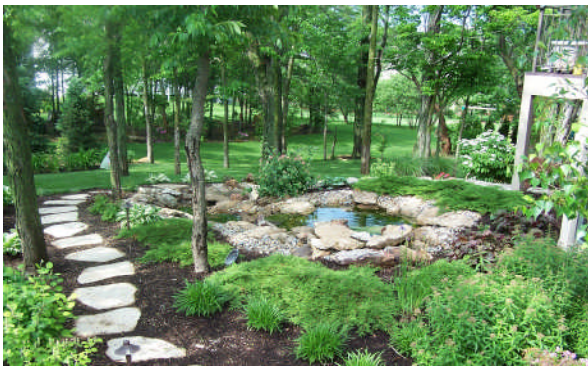
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CREATIVITY**

Vision

Inspired by Nature...

A shared passion for outdoor living is the greatest influence for our team at Doctor's. We combine that passion with our client's personal preferences to create unique landscape experiences. Each one is special, and is a testimony to the great attributes of Kansas City or Sunrise Beach living.

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- Palm Trees

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**GUIDE TO CARING
FOR JUNIPERS,
CEDARS AND
PINES**

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CONIFERS

Conifers make up the group of trees that are commonly called evergreens. Included are Junipers, Spruces, Pines, Arborvitae, Cedars and Hemlocks. One of the most important things when considering buying a conifer is the location and soil content. Some of the conifers grow to be 20 feet in height, others like spreading junipers could cover large areas. Before planting consider what you need and want the tree to look like. If you are looking for a small, dense evergreen, we suggest a **Dwarf Mugo Pine**. If you want a tall stately tree, try a **Colorado Blue Spruce**. For an ornamental variety, we recommend a **Weeping Blue Atlas Cedar** or a **Sargent's Weeping Hemlock**. All the conifers need well drained sites with properly prepared soil. See our **Guide to Planting Trees and Shrubs** for soil preparation instructions

JUNIPERS

Each spring we suggest you give your junipers a manicure. This involves combing out dead needles, fluffing the foliage vigorously, brushing with the direction of growth so that you don't break branches. Snow and ice can also do damage, breaking small or large limbs, especially if yours are situated under your house's eaves. All junipers need well-drained soil in order to thrive. Avoid heavy damp clay soils. If you have no choice but to plant in a clay soil, be sure that water drains away from the roots. A mulch layer on top will allow the roots to remain near the surface where oxygen levels are higher.

Many junipers are quite tolerant of dry conditions, but for optimum growth they should not be allowed to be without water for long periods.. Our favorite junipers are: Gold Tip Pfitzer, Broadmoor and Blue Rug.



CEDARS

Planted as a hedge, Cedars create a dense screening that looks good whether pruned or natural. Tall, pyramidal varieties are used as accents in foundation plantings and to provide striking architectural elements in planting beds or screens. A variety of dwarf forms provide a wealth of evergreen material for sites where a small plant is needed. Foremost among the requirement of Cedars is an adequate supply of moisture. This does not mean you should supply a swamp, simply ensure that the soil does not dry out. A mulch layer will help keep moisture levels higher. Moisture is particularly important in the late fall prior to freezing. Cedars need this fall moisture to prevent their needles from drying in the cold winter wind. If Cedars receive enough water and if the soil's pH is near neutral, you should have little trouble growing these useful trees. Each year Cedars cast off their

third-year needles. In order to "freshen up" your plants in the late fall or early spring, comb out the dead foliage. A vigorous brushing with your arm will generally dislodge this material at the same time letting you enjoy the fragrance of the needles. If you intend on shearing your cedars, the best time for this is in early summer after the first flush of growth. If you prune during growth, more side buds will be stimulated to grow, and you product a denser plant. Cedars are very forgiving and can also be pruned in either spring or early fall with few ill effects on healthy plants. Our 2 favorites are the Weeping Blue Atlas Cedar and the Fastigiata Cedar.

PINES

Pines, with their long needles, have a special texture, as if nature had frozen thousands of bursting green fireworks and artfully arranged them on stems. In spring the new growth decorate the trees with multitudes of ascending candles, adding yet another textural dimension to the garden. The Mugo Pine, with its low stature and dense, dark green foliage, is one of the more useful and popular pines in modern gardens. Few plants are more adapted to growing in cold weather. Our other favorites are Vanderwolf's and White Pine. Vanderwolf's is an upright conical form with good vigor. It's blue green needles are long and soft-looking. The White Pine also has long, soft looking needles with an open to pyramidal shape. The White Pine and the Scotch Pine are generally used for Christmas Trees. If you plan on pruning your pines, do your shearing in the early summer, after the new growth has expanded, but before the new terminal buds have set. It is usual to cut 1/3 to 1/2 of the candles. After being pruned, the cut end will form several buds for the next year's growth. All pines like a well-drained soil, preferably one that is light and airy. A mulch of bark or needles will help keep weeds at bay, at the same time making more moisture available for the roots. With a little care, these pines will keep your garden in fireworks all year long.