



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

WESTERN ARBORVITAE CARE

LIGHT

Western arborvitae (*Thuja plicata*) grows in sun to partial shade and prefers a cool, sheltered root environment. Cultivars range from upright screening trees to compact globes and Whipcord's low, threadlike mound. Check mature dimensions before planting. This guide excludes Green Giant and Leprechaun, which have their own hybrid guide.

WATER

Water slowly through the root ball and surrounding soil after planting. Check moisture regularly and water deeply when needed, keeping roots evenly moist during establishment. Adjust for rain and drainage rather than following a fixed daily schedule. Continue checking during dry autumn weather until the ground freezes.

SOIL & PLANTING

Plant in moist, well-drained soil with the root flare at or slightly above ground level. Keep any graft union above the soil. Mulch lightly across the root zone without touching the trunk. Protect shallow roots from digging, compaction, lawn equipment, and added soil, and allow room for the cultivar's mature width.

FEEDING

Use a soil test to guide fertilizer and pH changes. Healthy plants may need no routine feeding. If nutrients are needed, use a modest spring application of tree or shrub fertilizer at the label rate. Avoid heavy nitrogen and late-season feeding; browning is not automatically evidence of a nutrient deficiency.

SEASONAL CARE

Preserve the natural shape and prune lightly when necessary. For a hedge, trim green growth gently in spring or early summer, keeping the base wider than the top. Avoid cutting into bare interior wood or making drastic height reductions. Dwarf specimen forms usually need little pruning beyond removing damaged growth.

HELPFUL TIPS

Whipcord's hanging cordlike foliage is normal and should be retained rather than sheared into a hedge. Fluffy and Forever Goldy have intentional golden color; bronze winter tips may also be normal on some selections. Western arborvitae dislikes prolonged drying and dry wind. Investigate spreading brown patches before adding fertilizer or applying a spray.