

TOP 10 SKINNY TREES

4

TIGHT SPACES

MY FAVORITE CONIFERS & DECIDUOUS TREES THAT OFFER HEIGHT WITHOUT WIDTH



WHY SKINNY TREES?

Small gardens and narrow side yards are the reality for many suburban homes, making privacy screening a challenge. Yet homeowners don't need to resort to erecting a fence. These trees have an upright, columnar shape without growing too wide and all offer outstanding **FOLIAGE** - the hallmark of every well designed garden. Choose one variety and install a hedge or plant a selection for seasonal interest and a diverse wildlife habitat.

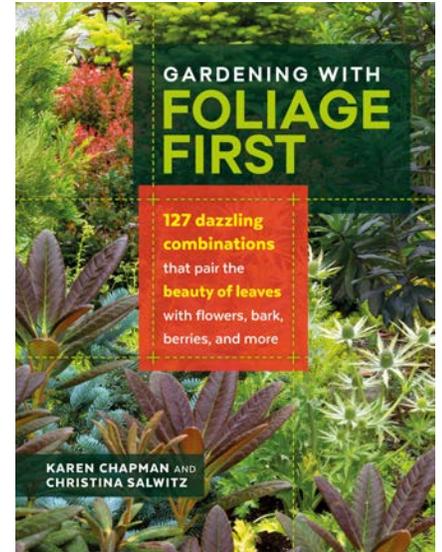
Even in larger landscapes there is a need for "punctuation" points and these skinny trees may be your perfect solution, offering evergreen foliage, fall color or blooms.

Discuss these ideas with your local nursery professional to find the perfect one for you.

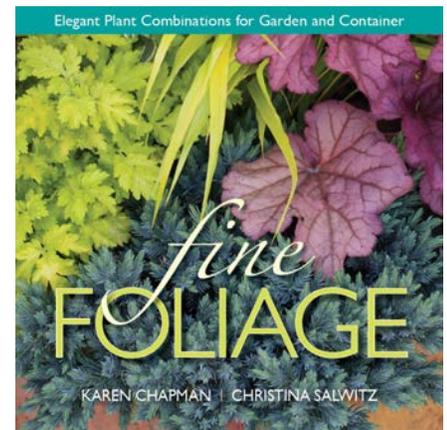
SCREENING, ACCENTS, LIVING FENCES

MY BOOKS

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Timber Press, 2017



St. Lynn's Press, 2013



Hello from Karen

I'm a British born, Seattle based author, landscape designer, speaker and plant-aholic. In other words I'm usually covered in a layer or two of soil, I drive everywhere with a large tarp for impromptu plant purchases, and I'm truly passionate about helping YOU create a garden that suits your lifestyle and exceeds your expectations.

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small garden. big impact.

Wissel's Saguaro false cypress

Chamaecyparis lawsoniana 'Wissel's Saguaro'

This is a conifer with attitude! Blue-green 'arms' beg for a hug and it certainly deserves a little extra love for the way it adds structure, height, color and living sculpture to the narrowest of spaces. Plant in well-drained soil and full sun. Approx. 8' tall in 10 years with an ultimate height of 18-20' yet just 2' wide.

USDA zones 6-8



Forever Goldie golden arborvitae

Thuja plicata 'Forever Goldie'

Be sure to plant this shining beacon where you can enjoy it year-round - or try it in a container. Brilliant yellow, non-shedding foliage has an orange cast in winter. Plant in full sun - shading will result in a more chartreuse tone. Moderately slow growing to 15-20' tall and 3-4' wide. USDA zones 3-7



Columnar Japanese plum yew

Cephalotaxus harringtonia 'Fastigiata'

One of the few conifers which thrives in part or even full shade. The dark blue-green needles are longer than those of yew (*Taxus* sp.). I use it in shady containers where it slowly grows to about 4' tall and 18" wide. In the landscape it is more likely to reach 6-7' tall and up to 4' wide. USDA zones 6-9



Flagpole cherry

Prunus serrulata 'Amanagowa'

A fabulous, columnar variety of cherry blossom that still has lightly fragrant, double pink blossoms, bronze spring foliage and orange-red fall color. Mature size typically 15-20' tall and 5-10' wide. USDA zones 5-8



Blue Surprise Port Orford cedar

Chamaecyparis lawsoniana 'Blue Surprise'.

Slender, elegant and deliciously blue - this is a special conifer for full sun and well drained soil. The foliage tints burgundy in winter. Slow growing to 10' tall and 3' wide. USDA zones 6-9



Persian Spire Persian ironwood

Parrotia persica 'Persian Spire'.

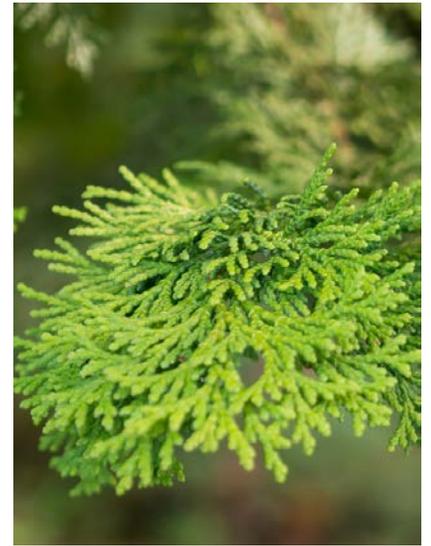
Every garden should have at least one Persian ironwood for the unique red winter flowers, mottled bark and outstanding spring foliage (shown here) plus fiery fall color. Persian Spire is slow growing to 25' tall x 8-10' wide in full sun or part sun. USDA 5-9



Slender Hinoki false cypress

Chamaecyparis obtusa 'Gracilis'

A beautiful sculptural conifer for the landscape. Needs full sun and well drained, moisture retentive soil. 8-12' tall and 4-5' wide. USDA zones 4-8



Shrubby podocarpus

Podocarpus macrophyllus var. *maki*

Slower growing than the species, this evergreen, columnar conifer reaches 8-10' tall and 3-5' wide making it ideal for hedging, using as a screen or as a single accent. Deer resistant and grows in either sun or shade. USDA zone 7-11



Tiny Tower Italian cypress

Cupressus sempervirens 'Tiny Tower'

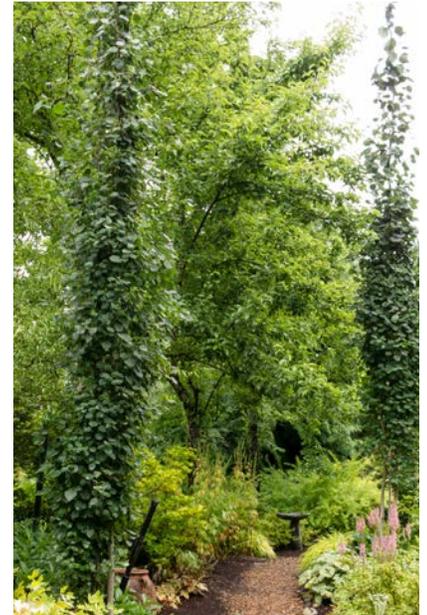
A compact form of this columnar conifer with dense blue-green foliage. Grow in full sun. Drought tolerant once established. Very slow growing to 25-30' tall and 3' wide. USDA zones 7-10



Swedish aspen

Populus tremula 'Erecta'

Tightly columnar form with green foliage that turns yellow in fall. Needs moisture retentive soil and even tolerates wet soils. It may sucker in ideal conditions - be warned! Extremely cold hardy. To 35' tall and 5-10' wide (but mine is still 2' wide after 7 years). USDA zones 2-7



Quick Tree Finder

Zones 2-3: Swedish aspen, Forever Goldie golden arborvitae

Zones 4-5: Swedish aspen, Forever Goldie golden arborvitae, slender Hinoki, Persian ironwood, Flagpole cherry

Zones 6-7: Swedish aspen, Forever Goldie golden arborvitae, slender Hinoki, Persian ironwood, Flagpole cherry, Port Orford cedar, plum yew, Wissel's Saguaro false cypress

Zones 8-9: Italian cypress, shrubby podocarpus, Persian ironwood, Port Orford cedar, plum yew

Zones 10-11: shrubby podocarpus

Photo credits: All by Le jardinet except shrubby podocarpus (Jay Sifford) and Persian ironwood (UpShoot LLC)

KEEP IN TOUGH

with

KAREN

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