

## Thuja - Growing Guide

### Growing Thuja

#### *Arborvitae*

This is a genus of five species of which Burncoose stocks a few forms of only two. Thuja are completely hardy evergreen conifers whose common name gives a fair idea of how fast the species grow. That is not to say that dwarf growing forms have not been bred which are not fast growing at all and make good rockery or even shrub border plants.

Thuja plicata is an excellent windbreak hedge and can be clipped and trained into a formal hedge with some difficulty for a limited number of years before the trunks simply get too big. When a freak whirlwind hit Burncoose garden in 1978 the front drive was blocked with fallen trees for six months and no mature trees at all were left in the centre of the garden. Within 20 years a row of T. plicata was up and running. Today it is 60-70ft tall and by no means finished growing yet. In places we grew two rows and have recently had to remove one to give space for the others to grow. Other windbreaks have been established in the meantime and another whole row was also felled. However, there is no doubt that this American tree has a firm place in creating a tall, quick growing, windbreak tree. It is rather nicer to look at with its more mature pendulous branches too than x Cupressocyparis leylandii.



Thuja plicata



Thuja plicata



Thuja plicata as hedge

*T. occidentalis* 'Rheingold' is a conical bush growing slowly to 3-6ft in height



*Thuja occidentalis*  
'Rheingold'



*Thuja plicata* 'Whipcord'



*Thuja plicata* 'Whipcord'



*Thuja plicata* 'Whipcord'



*Thuja plicata* 'Zebrina'



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