



# *Tsuga canadensis*

## Eastern hemlock, Canadian Hemlock, Eastern hemlock-spruce



*Tsuga canadensis* (Canada hemlock, Eastern hemlock) comes from the cool and damp forests in the north-east of the United States and south-east Canada. Here, the tree grows with, amongst others, *Acer pensylvanicum*, *Acer saccharum* and *Fagus grandiflora*. In cultivation, this elegant evergreen conifer grows to between fifteen and twenty metres tall and has a width of six to eight metres; in nature, there are specimens as tall as fifty metres and fifteen metres across. The graceful, densely branched pyramidal form of the crown is enhanced by the low branching, the upward curving branches and the fine texture of the needles.

The needles of the Canada hemlock are soft and small and arranged in pairs around the twigs. Even in the winter the tree retains its dark green colour with two white stripes on the underside of the needles. Juvenile needles are bright green in late spring and contrast nicely with the older, dark green needles. The unremarkable male and female flowers of *Tsuga canadensis* appear in the spring. Lovely little cones, which are not especially showy, are produced in the autumn. *Tsuga canadensis* has a red-brown peeling bark on young trees, the bark of older trees is stunningly deeply grooved with wide, flat furrows.

The Canada hemlock is a true climax species which occurs mainly in shady forests on acidic, damp but well-drained soils. Consequently, the tree is primarily suitable for planting in groups or individually in park-like surroundings where it can grow to monumental proportions. Very open and exposed sites must be avoided because it does not cope well in the wind. *Tsuga canadensis* does not tolerate high temperatures, drought, salt and compaction of the earth. Conversely, cold climates to winter hardiness zone four are no problem.

### SEASONAL COLOURS



### TYPES OF PLANTING

**Tree types:** standard trees, feathered trees, characteristic trees, conifers, woodland planting stock | **Topiary on stem:** multi-stem umbrella

### USE

**Location:** park, large garden, cemetery | **Pavement:** none | **Planting concepts:** shade-tolerant

### CHARACTERISTICS

**Crown shape:** wide pyramidal | **Crown structure:** semi-open | **Height:** 15 - 20 m | **Width:** 6 - 8 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 4A - 7B

### ASPECTS

**Wind:** intolerant to wind | **Soil:** loess, sabulous clay, light clay, sand, loamy soil | **Nutrient level:** low in nutrients, moderately rich in nutrients, rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level:** moist | **Light requirements:** partial shade, shade | **pH range:** acidic

### PLANTKENMERKEN

**Flowers:** discrete | **Flower colour:** yellow-green | **Flowering period:** May - May | **Leaf colour:** dark green, buds pale green, underside white-grey | **Leaves:** evergreen, needles or scales, short needles | **Fruits:** discrete, cones | **Fruit colour:** pale brown, grey-brown | **Bark colour:** grey-brown, red-brown | **Bark:** peeling, deeply furrowed, furrowed | **Twig colour:** yellow | **Twigs:** hairy, horizontal branches, pendulous | **Root system:** shallow, extensive, central root

