**American Arborvitae**  
*Thuja occidentalis*

- **Plant Characteristics:** A dense, often broad-pyramidal tree with short, ascending branches to the ground which end in flat spreading, horizontal sprays. Native to Minnesota.

- **Size:** Height: 15—40’  
  Width: 10—20’

- **Foliage:** Dark green to yellow-green with little fall or winter color change.

- **Flower:** Monoecious with a purplish-brown color.

- **Fruit:** Cones 1/2 inch long with 8 to 10 scales. The cone is light brown.

- **Soil:** Prefers deep moist loam in well-drained soils.

- **Tolerances:** Will tolerate sandy soils with high water table.  
  - Very tolerant of limestone soils.  
  - Once established tolerates heat & drought.

- **USDA Hardiness Zone:** Zone 3—7

- **Light Range:** Partial to full sun. Susceptible to sporadic winter burn and may benefit from shading in January-April when young.

- **pH Range:** 6.0—8.0 pH

- **Other:**  
  - Slow to medium rate of growth.
  - The root system is variable, shallow, spread to crown drip line.
  - Prefers areas with considerable atmospheric moisture as well as soil moisture.
  - Used for windbreaks, privacy screens and hedges.
  - Good for wildlife cover, nesting and food.