



## Crazy for Conifers

- Slow-growing and compact conifers to dress up your landscape  
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### American Conifer Society (ACS) Standards of Growth ([conifersociety.org](http://conifersociety.org))

Category	Abbreviation	Growth / year	Approx. size at 10 years
Miniature	M	< 1"	< 1'
Dwarf	D	>1 to 6"	>1' to 6'
Intermediate	I	>6 to 12"	>6' to 15'
Large	L	>12"	>15'

### Resilience!

1. Charming Chub white fir, *Abies concolor* 'Charming Chub'; Zone 4, Miniature
2. Green Carpet common juniper, *Juniperus communis* 'Green Carpet'; Zone 3, Dwarf
3. Mother Lode juniper, *Juniperus horizontalis* 'Mother Lode'; Zone 3, Dwarf in Western states
4. Blue Star juniper, *Juniperus squamata* 'Blue Star'; Zone 4, Miniature to dwarf
5. Pointed Norway spruce (*Picea abies* 'Mucronata'); Zone 3, Dwarf
6. Pusch dwarf Norway spruce (*Picea abies* 'Pusch'); Zone 3, Dwarf
7. Jasper Engelmann spruce, *Picea engelmannii* 'Hexenbesen Jasper'; Zone 3, Dwarf
8. Hedgehog spruce, *Picea glauca* 'Echiniformis'; Zone 3, Miniature
9. Gnom dwarf Serbian spruce, *Picea omorika* 'Gnom'; Zone 4, Dwarf
10. Dwarf Serbian spruce, *Picea omorika* 'Nana'; Zone 4, Dwarf
11. Globe blue spruce, *Picea pungens* 'Globosa'; Zone 3, Dwarf
12. Mongtgomery blue spruce, *Picea pungens* 'Montgomery'; Zone 3, Dwarf
13. St. Mary's Broom blue spruce, *Picea pungens* 'St. Mary's Broom'; Zone 3, Miniature
14. Mesa Verde spruce, *Picea pungens* 'Mesa Verde'; Zone 3, Dwarf in Western states

15. Sherwood Compact bristlecone pine, *Pinus aristata* 'Sherwood Compact'; Zone 3, Dwarf
16. Diamant dwarf lacebark pine, *Pinus bungeana* 'Diamant'; Zone, Dwarf
17. Dwarf pinyon pines, *Pinus edulis* 'Farmy', 'Trinidad', 'Tiny Pout' and others; Zone 5, Miniature
18. Dwarf blue single-leaf pine, *Pinus monophylla* 'Blue Jazz'; Zone 5; Miniature
19. Irish Bell dwarf Bosnian pine, *Pinus leucodermis* 'Irish Bell'; Zone 5, Dwarf
20. Dwarf mugo pines, *Pinus mugo* 'White Bud', 'Mops', 'Valley Cushion'; Zone 2, Miniature
21. Hornibrook or Helga dwarf Austrian pine, *Pinus nigra* 'Hornibrookiana' or 'Helga'; Zone 4, Dwarf
22. Dwarf ponderosa pine, *Pinus ponderosa* selections; Zone 4, Dwarf

### **Pro tips for success with dwarf and miniature conifers**

- Choose companion plants of appropriate scale – e.g. rock garden & alpine plants
- For beautiful winter gardens, plant with manzanitas (broadleaf evergreens) and small-scale ornamental grasses.
- Score or loosen root ball before planting.
- Plant with the crowns slightly above grade – this allows air to get to the roots.
- Backfill should be a mix of native (or garden) soil mixed with media loosened from the root ball.
- Water in thoroughly, and do not allow root ball to completely dry out during establishment, especially if the media is a soilless (peat and/or bark dust) mix.
- Bark mulch is okay, but it shouldn't be too deep nor too close to the trunk.
- Growth RATE is everything! And these plants don't stop growing – give them plenty of room!

### **Resources**

- All maps courtesy of bonap.net (Biota of North America Program): [bonap.org](http://bonap.org)
- Database of the American Conifer Society: [conifersociety.org](http://conifersociety.org)
- The Gymnosperm Database: [conifers.org](http://conifers.org)
- Denver Botanic Gardens plant collections: [Navigate.botanicgardens.org](http://Navigate.botanicgardens.org)