

# Garden Corner

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It won't be long and this winter will be a distant memory filled with reviews of catalogue magazines, waiting for purchases to arrive, and planting to begin. However, one aspect of winter may not be easily forgotten and that is the brown to golden color of our landscape – devoid of anything green. To correct the rather bland outdoor appearance, you might want to consider planting something, which falls into the “evergreen” variety. Because of several conversations I've had with county residents I thought a few ideas on acceptable pine trees might be in order.

Many of you know that a particular species of pine is not native to our location and as a result, finding the right tree can be difficult. Fortunately, the University of Missouri Extension website has developed an extensive list you may want to consider before spending your time and money planting. For those who would like a quick list, this article is for you.

If you want a big tree that grows quickly and maintains a conical shape with great branching; then the Eastern White Pine is for you. There are a few things to keep in mind if this is your choice. Give it plenty of room – this tree gets big! While it will withstand the hot afternoon sun of summer, it does prefer to be shaded during that time. Its feeder roots are very near the surface, which requires a liberal layer of mulch to be maintained.

Another great choice is the Colorado blue spruce. While driving around Warrensburg you will discover several of this specie that have grown to magnificent heights. They have been in place for a long time for this tree is a slow grower. And, it too will benefit from large amounts of mulch. Exposure to the sun doesn't seem to effect its growth or branch formation. However,

the larger trees I have seen have benefited from being placed in a protected area safe from the brutal north winter wind.

Are you looking for something to plant near the foundation of your home, which will add the green color and not become a nuisance in terms of root damage to your structure? Mugo pine might be exactly what you're looking for. This little pine seems to love our clay soil and does well in any location you have available. It is slow growing and tends to spread laterally instead of shooting up in height.

Any discussion of "pine" trees would be remiss if some credit was not given to our only native evergreen tree, which appears to be a pine; but is not. In fact, the red cedar is not a pine tree at all, but a juniper. If you are looking for a tree, which resembles a pine and is perfectly adapted to our area, look no further! With a little tender loving care, the red cedar will become a prize specimen in short order and will reward you with years of maintenance free worry from bugs and diseases. Yes, it can get infested with bagworm casings, which are easily managed; but, pound for pound, this tree will not disappoint. One word of caution: If you have apple trees, this tree is not for you. Due to a fungus (usually orange in color) that grows on the tips of its branches, the leaves of your apple trees will have what is called cedar apple rust. This fungus can also affect the fruit.

There are many other types of pine trees which will do well in our area and if you're considering adding one to your landscape and would like to know more about your choice, give me a holler at: [maandpak@embarqmail.com](mailto:maandpak@embarqmail.com) or write: 370 NW 121 Rd., Warrensburg, MO 64093 and I'll do my best to help you sort it out.