



Small urban lots place many constraints on plant choices. Columnar plants can be strategic solutions for these situations. In addition, tall and narrow shapes provide a very strong structural element to gardens of all sizes. The following list offers some suggestions of columnar to conical (cone-shaped) plants for a tight area.

*Plants are subject to seasonal availability.*

**Plants with an \* are evergreen.**

## 10' Tall and Under

**\**Buxus semp*'Graham Blandy**- A narrow form of English boxwood. Grows 3-6"/year in height. But is not wider than 3'. Full sun to part shade.

***Berberis thunbergii*'Helmond Pillar'**-A deciduous barberry with dark maroon leaves. It matures at 4-5' tall and 2' wide. Requires full sun.

**\**Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*'Blue Surprise'**- Soft feathery powder blue foliage with purple tints in winter. Matures at 8' tall and 2-3' wide. Full sun and excellent drainage.

**\**Chamaecyparis pisifera*'Boulevard'**- Very soft blue curly foliage with purple tints in winter. Slow to 8-12' tall and 4-6' wide. Full sun, good drainage.

**\**Chamaecyparis thyoides*'Red Star'**-Tiny green star shaped foliage turns maroon in winter. Slow growing dwarf conifer (1-3"/year) stays narrow. Requires full sun. Tolerant of many soil types.

**\**Ilex crenata*'Sky Sentry', or 'Sky Pencil'**- Small rounded glossy leaves and black berries. Slow growing to 10' tall and 1 1/2' wide. Needs full to partial sun.

**\**Juniperus communis*'Compressa'**-A conical plant with grey green foliage. Slow growing (3-6"/year) reaching 2' tall and 6" wide in ten years.

**\**Juniperus communis*'Gold Cone'**- Bright yellow foliage in spring and summer. Grows 3-6"/year reaching 6' tall and 2' wide. Needs full sun and good drainage.

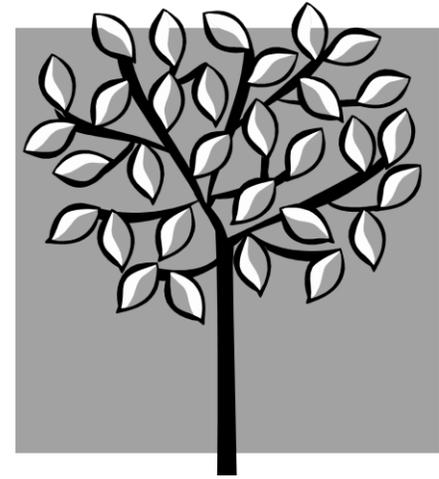
**\**Picea glauca*'Conica'**- Dwarf Alberta Spruce. Cone shaped plant with compact foliage. Grows 3"/year, to 8'-12' tall and 3-5' wide. Requires full sun.

**\**Pinus sylvestris*'Sentinel'**- A dwarf and narrow form of Scott's pine with bluish needles and reddish bark. Slow growing to 4' tall and 1' wide in ten years. Needs full sun and good drainage.

**\**Taxus baccata*'Amersfoort'**- An unusual yew with stubby, wide needles and distinctive structure. Grows 1-3"/year (no information on mature size). Full sun to partial shade.

**\**Taxus x media*'Beanpole'**-A dense pillar of dark green foliage. Very slow growing (1-3"/year) indefinitely. Full sun to part shade. Protect from severe winter winds.

**\**Thuja occidentalis*'Degroot's Spire'**- Very narrow form of arborvitae with spirally arranged foliage. Grows 6-12"/year indefinitely. 8' tall and 1' wide in ten years. Full sun to partial shade.



## 10'-20' Tall

**\**Chamaecyparis obtusa*'Gracilis'**- Slender Hinoki Cypress. Artistic structure is complimented by dark green fan like foliage. Grows 3-6"/year reaching 20' tall and 4-5' wide. It can reach 30' in time. Full sun to part shade. Good drainage.

**Columnar apples**- An apple that reaches 12' tall and 3' wide. White flowers with a pink blush in the spring and colorful fruits in the fall. Three varieties available, 'Golden Sentinel', 'North Pole', and 'Scarlet Sentinel'. Full sun.

**\**Ilex vomitoria*'Will Flemming'**- A dense column of tiny, shiny dark green leaves. Grows 6-12"/year reaching 15' tall and 2-3' wide. Full sun to partial shade.

**\**Juniperus scopulorum*'Skyrocket'**- Silvery blue spire of scaly foliage. Grows 12"/year reaching 10-15' tall and 3-5' wide. Full sun and good drainage.

**\**Juniperus scopulorum*'Moonglow'**- Intense silver blue foliage creates a dense pyramid. Grows 12"/year reaching 15-20' tall and 5-8' wide. Full sun.

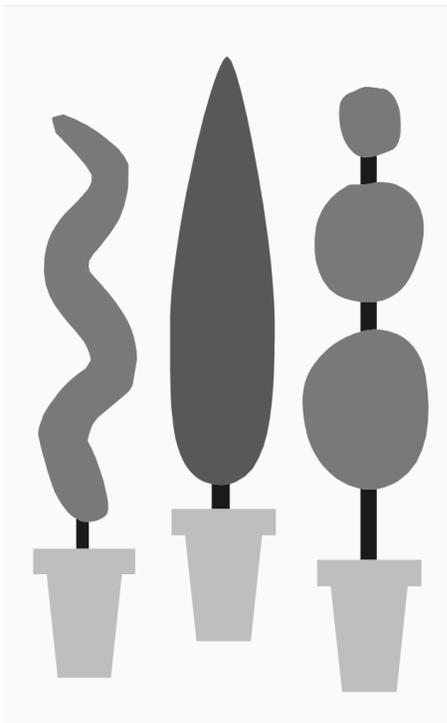
***Laburnum anagyroides* 'Sunspire'**-

Columnar Golden Chain Tree. Deciduous three lobed leaves and clusters of bright yellow pea shaped flowers in early summer. Green bark. Slow grower, 12-15' tall and 5-8' wide. Full sun.

**\**Pinus sylvestris* 'Fastigata'**- Narrow form of Scotts pine. Thick blue green needles and reddish bark are a nice contrast. Grows 12"/year reaching 20' tall and 3-4' wide. Full sun and good drainage.

**\**Taxus baccata* 'Stricta'**- Irish Yew. Dark green spire. Slow growing (3-6"/year) eventually reaching 20' tall and 3-5' wide. Full sun to partial shade. Good drainage.

**\**Thuja occidentalis* 'Holmstrup'**- Compact dark green foliage. Grows 6-12"/year. Conical habit, 8-12' tall 4-5' wide at base. Full sun to partial shade.



**Plants over 20' Tall**

***Acer rubrum* 'Bowhall'**- Narrow form of red maple. Bright red fall color. Grows 1.7"/year. Matures at 40-50' tall and 10-15' wide. Full sun.

***Carpinus betulus* 'Franz Fontaine'**- Hornbeam. A dense pyramid of textured leaves. Reaches 30' tall and 15' wide. Full sun.

**\**Cupressus sempervirens* 'Tiny Tower', and 'Stricta'**- Italian Cypress. A classic in columnar plants. 'Tiny Tower' reaches 25' tall and 3-4' wide. 'Stricta' reaches 40-60' tall and 3-5' wide. Excellent drainage, shelter from severe winds and cold. Full sun.

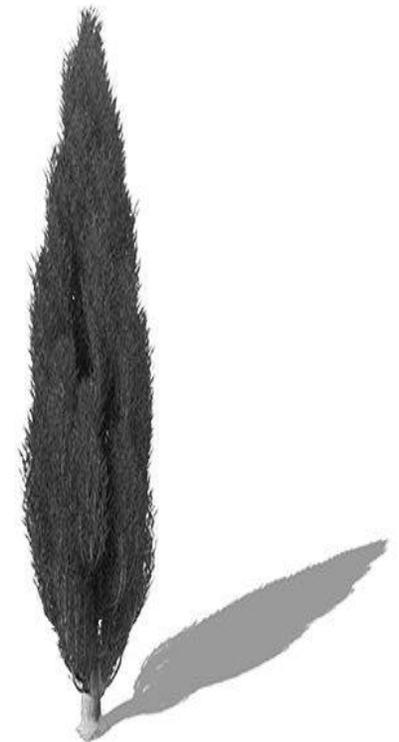
***Fagus sylvatica* 'Red Obleisk'**- One of several beech cultivars that are narrow. Maroon leaves in summer. Grows to 35' tall and 8' wide. Full sun.

***Koelreuteria paniculata* 'Fastigiata'**- Golden Rain tree. Feathery deciduous foliage is topped by sprays of yellow flowers in summer. Fast growing to 35' tall and 6' wide. Easy. Full sun.

**\**Pinus flexilis* 'Vanderwolf's Pyramid'**- A soft pine with striking steel blue needles. Grows 16"/year. Reaches 30'+ tall and 10-15' wide. Full sun and good drainage.

# Columnar Plants

Narrow plants for tight spots



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