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Piccolo Dwarf Balsam Fir

Abies balsamea 'Piccolo'



Piccolo Dwarf Balsam Fir foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 12 inches

Spread: 12 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 3a

Description:

Tiny, uniform dark green needles radiate around many short branches on this very small and fine variety; great for containers and rock gardens; prefers moist, acidic soils but should do well in most garden soils, best in full sun

Ornamental Features

Piccolo Dwarf Balsam Fir is a dwarf conifer which is primarily valued in the garden for its ornamental globe-shaped form. It has dark green evergreen foliage. The tiny needles remain dark green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Piccolo Dwarf Balsam Fir is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a more or less rounded form. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and should not require much pruning, except when necessary, such as to remove dieback. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Piccolo Dwarf Balsam Fir is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Piccolo Dwarf Balsam Fir will grow to be about 12 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 12 inches. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 50 years or more.

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This shrub performs well in both full sun and full shade. It prefers to grow in moist to wet soil, and will even tolerate some standing water. It is particular about its soil conditions, with a strong preference for sandy, acidic soils. It is quite intolerant of urban pollution, therefore inner city or urban streetside plantings are best avoided, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selection of a native North American species.

Piccolo Dwarf Balsam Fir makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing the canvas against which the thriller plants stand out. Note that when grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.