



photo: Dan Jaffe

COMMON JUNIPER

Juniperus communis

Needled evergreen conifer that loves colder climates! Behaves like a low-spreading shrub but can grow tall in certain conditions. Its fall berries are excellent for wildlife—and gin!

Benefits for Wildlife

- Provides shade and cover for songbirds and small mammals
- Nesting habitat for Short-eared Owls
- Woodrats use the branches in their nests

Host to 41 caterpillar species, including:
(*common names*) Juniper Hairstreak; Imperial Moth; Whitemarked Tussock Moth; Evergreen Spanworm; Honey-comb Micro

Benefits for People

- Hardy - tolerant to poor soils, drought, cold, and pollution
- Versatile as a groundcover or a shrub
- Berries are used as the dominant flavoring in gin

Growing Information

<i>Sunlight</i>	Sun
<i>Soil Type</i>	Dry, sandy
<i>Height</i>	5–15'
<i>Width</i>	3–12'
<i>Flowering calendar</i>	April

Natural Habitat

- Rocky slopes, plains, coniferous forests

