

# *How to Care for a* WICHITA BLUE JUNIPER Shrub

## Juniperus scopulorum 'Wichita Blue

### **SELECT SITE:**

Light Requirements: Full Sun (more than 6 hrs/day)

This tree will slowly grow larger: In ideal conditions, the plant typically reaches 10-15 ft. tall by 4-6 ft. wide.

Thrives in almost any soil, including dry sandy soils with good drainage. Does not like the hot & Humid conditions of the Deep South, does not like wet soils.

Garden Uses: Screens, backgrounds, small landscape tree with winter interest.

Ideal USDA Plant Hardiness Zones: 3,4,5,6,7

### **PLANT PREP:**

Open box upon arrival, remove packing materials to let the plant "breathe". Remove plastic bag, tape, and newspaper. Water well. There are drainage holes in the bottom of the pot so do this over a sink basin where the extra water will drain away.

### **HOLE PREP:**

Dig saucer shaped hole. The depth is determined by measuring the height of the roots from root flare to bottom. The width is 2-3 times the root ball diameter. Using these calculations, the ideal hole for the new plant will be approximately 18" tall by 18-24" wide.

### **PLANTING:**

Put garden soil in a wheelbarrow or on a tarp. Mix the garden soil with equal amounts of mulch, peat moss, and potting soil. Place plant in hole and adjust for aesthetics. If desired, have someone hold it in place while more soil mixture is added, until the hole is completely filled. Push soil down until firm. Do not plant the plant deeper than it has already been growing. Water well immediately after planting. Mulch evenly to a depth of 2-3 inches.

### **FUTURE MAINTENANCE:**

No pruning needed to maintain natural conical form.

.If desired, in Spring, apply 2 tbsp. of an all-purpose, slow release fertilizer upon the ground in a band around the plant at least 6" away from its stem.

Water regularly when soil is dry. Plant is drought tolerant but it would appreciate regular watering until it is established in its new home.