

Friends of the Arboretum Native Plant Sale



***Juniperus communis* – Common Juniper**

COMMON NAME: Common Juniper

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Juniperus communis*

FRUIT: Light blue berries becoming purple-black

SIZE: Usually a low spreading shrub, 2 to 5 feet tall, but occasionally growing into a sizeable tree.

BEHAVIOR: Needle-like leaves in whorls of three with a broad white band on the upper side.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: This is found naturally on dry, rocky, wooded hillsides or exposed slopes with a variety of soil types.

NATURAL RANGE: Throughout Canada and most of the US except for Texas and the Gulf states. Found along the shores of the Great Lakes, on sandy, sunny sites along the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers and in weedy sites on sandy, disturbed or rocky sites in Door County and on similar sites at scattered locations in southern Wisconsin.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Seed cones are berry-like ripening to purple-black with a blue waxy coating. These are often called “Juniper berries” and can be used sparingly to flavor meat dishes, beers and gin. The berries are eaten by a variety of songbirds and are an important food source for wild turkeys.

SUGGESTED CARE: Easy to grow once established. It makes an excellent, vigorous landscaping shrub and of value for long-term land rehabilitation projects and in preventing soil erosion.