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WHAT'S UP IN LANDSCAPING, BUT DEFINITELY NOT OUT...



Plants that draw our eyes upward are becoming commonplace in almost every genus. Pyramidal, columnar, and fastigate describe the growth patterns of some of the best selling plants at Christensen's Plant Center. 'Cleveland' Pear and 'Emerald Green' Arborvitae are great examples. Trees and woody ornamentals appropriate for tight spaces were very limited in the past, but now...

'Crimson Sentry' Norway Maple is a great tree for courtyard and plantings where height, but not spread is desired. But this favorite for a number of years has increasing competition – 'Red Obelisk' and 'Dawyk Purple' Beech. Other new recruits are 'Slender Silhouette' Sweetgum, 'Arnold' Tuliptree, and Ginkgo b. 'Fastigiata'.

This trend is also evident in the conifers. 'Viridis' Yew is not only a vivid shade of green, but also an excellent specimen plant. 'Shawnee Brave' Bald Cypress, Norway Spruce 'Cupressina', and Colorado Blue Spruce 'Fastigiata' replace their bulkier counterparts for areas too tight or narrow for the traditional evergreen.

In the woody ornamentals there are examples in the barberries to the viburnums. But the great stand-out is Fine Line[®] Buckthorn, a shrub with an almost tropical appearance for the tightest of spots in any bed (I can't believe I'm praising any form of Buckthorn).



Fastigate forms have been around for quite a while, but are now experiencing increased production as well as demand (need) for these types of plants. Urban settings, pedestrian and parking areas, and smaller lot sizes for homes have created this demand. Fastigate plants usually have slower, tighter growth habits and require less pruning. Who would argue with that part? - JG



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