

threadleaf Western redcedar
***Thuja plicata* 'Filiformis'**



Threadleaf Western redcedar was planted in the Heritage Garden (bed 137E) in 1994 and has slowly reached its height and spread of 2 m/6 ft. This handsome conifer is seldom seen in gardens. And that is too bad.

From a distance, threadleaf Western redcedar looks like an ornamental grass. But once you get up close, you are in for a treat. Its twisting, shaggy red bark weaves through its arching thread-like leaves. Every time you get a close-up look, you find something different and delightful.

According to our Plant Document Technician, the Alpine Garden Club gave VanDusen a threadleaf Western redcedar that was planted in bed 22A of the Cascadia Garden in 1973. The Heritage Garden one was grown from a cutting of this plant. I wanted to take a look at the mother plant. I wondered if it had retained its attractive arching shape. I wondered if looking into this plant would reveal even more variety of texture than its much younger cutting.

But no luck. There have been many changes in bed 22A over the years. Plus the bed is on a slope and has a fence on one side. It still could show up though. I was looking for it in winter light - a time plants can magically disappear.

This graceful plant in bed 137E is telling you: 'Come over and stand by me. Look closely. You will see a tapestry. Think about planting me - full sun to partial shade and average soil suits me fine. And by the way, I make a great focal point.'

https://plants.gardenworks.ca/11190002/Plant/4137/Threadleaf_Arborvitae/

<https://www.conifers.org/cu/Thuja.php>

<https://nwwildflowers.com/compare/?t=Thuja+plicata,+Thuja+occidentalis>



These two pictures of threadleaf Western redcedar were taken on a cold winter day.