

# *Juniperus chinensis* 'Torulosa': 'Torulosa' Juniper<sup>1</sup>

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## Introduction

Torulosa Juniper grows into a narrow cone shape when young, then opens up as the plant ages. Although the main body of its foliage is as thick as if it had been sheared, delicately twisted, upright branches emerge gracefully all around the plant, in almost a flame-like manner. It may grow to 15 feet tall in 15 years, perhaps leaning to one side in a picturesque manner. Do not expect a row of them to provide a uniform shape since crown form varies.

## General Information

**Scientific name:** *Juniperus chinensis*

**Pronunciation:** joo-NIP-er-us chih-NEN-sis

**Common name(s):** 'Torulosa' Juniper

**Family:** Cupressaceae

**USDA hardiness zones:** 5B through 11 (Fig. 2)

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Invasive potential:** little invasive potential

**Uses:** specimen; screen; container or planter; espalier; highway median

**Availability:** not native to North America

## Description

**Height:** 10 to 15 feet

**Spread:** 6 to 10 feet

**Crown uniformity:** irregular

**Crown shape:** pyramidal, upright/erect

**Crown density:** open

**Growth rate:** moderate

**Texture:** fine



Figure 1. Middle-aged *Juniperus chinensis* 'Torulosa': 'Torulosa' Juniper

## Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** opposite/subopposite (Fig. 3)

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** entire

**Leaf shape:** scale-like

**Leaf venation:** none, or difficult to see

**Leaf type and persistence:** evergreen, fragrant

**Leaf blade length:** less than 2 inches

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Figure 2. Range

**Leaf color:** green

**Fall color:** no color change

**Fall characteristic:** not showy

### Flower

**Flower color:** brown, yellow, green

**Flower characteristics:** not showy

### Fruit

**Fruit shape:** cone, oval, round

**Fruit length:** less than .5 inch

**Fruit covering:** dry or hard

**Fruit color:** blue

**Fruit characteristics:** does not attract wildlife; not showy; fruit/leaves not a litter problem

### Trunk and Branches

**Trunk/bark/branches:** branches don't droop; not showy; typically multi-trunked; thorns

**Pruning requirement:** little required

**Breakage:** resistant

**Current year twig color:** green

**Current year twig thickness:** thin

**Wood specific gravity:** unknown

### Culture

**Light requirement:** full sun, partial sun or partial shade

**Soil tolerances:** sand; loam; clay; alkaline; acidic; well-drained

**Drought tolerance:** high

**Aerosol salt tolerance:** high

### Other

**Roots:** not a problem

**Winter interest:** no

**Outstanding tree:** no

**Ozone sensitivity:** unknown

**Verticillium wilt susceptibility:** resistant

**Pest resistance:** resistant to pests/diseases

## Use and Management

Torulosa Juniper develops into a showcase specimen without pruning and is probably best used for this purpose. Planted on four to six-foot centers, it can develop into a thick screen which could be useful along a driveway, where a narrow, bright green screen is often needed to create privacy.

Growing best in full sun, more open in partial shade, Torulosa Juniper needs well-drained soil or it will decline from root rot. It tolerates alkaline soil and is quite drought-tolerant but root regeneration is slow after transplanting from a field nursery. It is frequently offered in containers from a nursery.

Torulosa Juniper can be propagated by cuttings.

### Pests

Mites and bagworms can infest the foliage.

### Diseases

Torulosa Juniper is susceptible to root rot and bacterial blight.