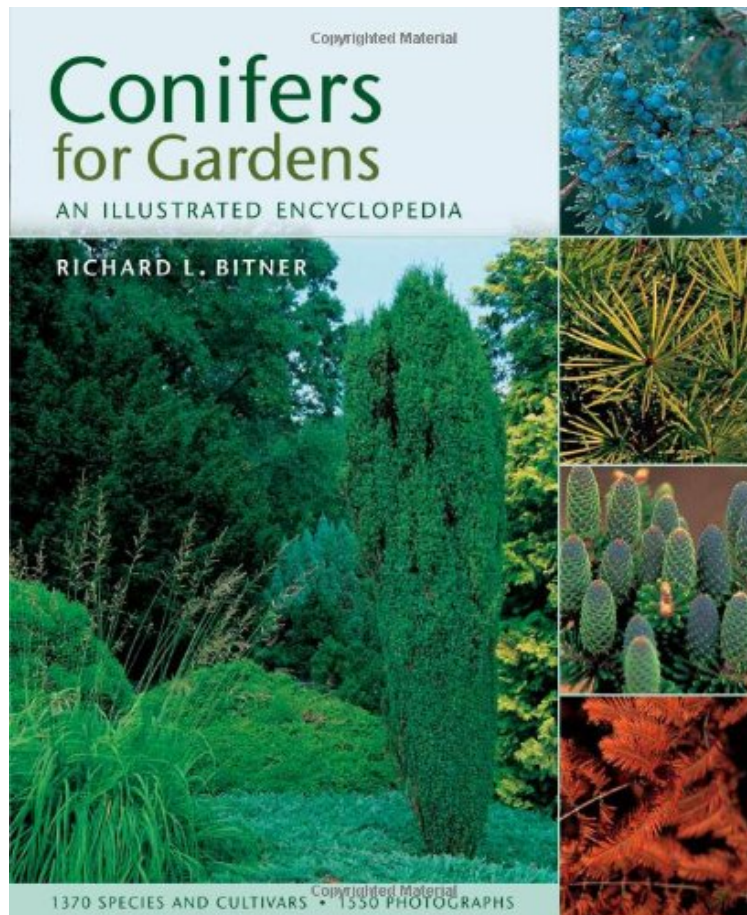


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Conifers for Gardens: An Illustrated Encyclopedia

Richard L. Bitner

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Richard L. Bitner : Conifers for Gardens: An Illustrated Encyclopedia before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Conifers for Gardens: An Illustrated Encyclopedia:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not quite right for me By P. Larkin Hutton First of all, I have a lot of good things to say about this book. The photographs are both beautiful and useful. Each cultivar or species is well described, along with its suitability for placement in a garden. Before buying, I checked it out from the library to review its usefulness for my purpose. I have a large garden of antique roses interplanted with perennials and bulbs. I have lately been thinking that a few evergreens would lend the garden some structure and beauty for the time of the year when the roses are not blooming. However I wanted plants that would suit my needs - sandy clay alkaline soil, water limitations, size constraints. I was looking for a good research tool. To judge the accuracy of the book, I decided to look up the largest conifer growing nearby, an Italian stone pine, *Pinus pinea*. However, it was not even mentioned in the book. Yes, I checked the index. I was astonished. Now there are some problems with Italian stone pines. (I suspect there are problems with all plants.) However, they are a highly popular and beautiful tree, widely grown in

California. I can't imagine why the author completely omitted them from his book. Even if he wanted to discourage people from growing them, he ought to have mentioned the fact. It made me a bit wary of the rest of the book which is why 4 stars. I actually considered giving 3, then decided that was not really a fair judgment. Don't know if I'll end up buying it someday or not. I might eventually; there is not a whole lot available on conifers for gardens. Follow up two years later: I did indeed end up ordering a copy of this book after all. I decided that on balance this book's strengths outweighed any weaknesses. 9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Lots of info
By P. MacI am a professional gardener. This book is very helpful and useful and it has lots of pictures. The only thing that I might say is missing is that not every variety shown has mature height and width, and it doesn't always say what the light requirements are. But, it still gives me varieties that look like what I might need for a given property, and if it doesn't give all the information I need, I just look up the variety from another source. Overall, it is a good "idea" book.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By justmethanks

Conifers for Gardens is intended to take away the element of uncertainty when you're choosing a plant that may alter your yard for years to come. Profusely illustrated with more than 1,500 crisp photographs and brimming with concise descriptions of both species and their numerous cultivars, this meticulously researched reference provides information - including size, appearance, hardiness, preferred growing conditions and susceptibility to pests and diseases - for almost every hardy conifer you're likely to encounter in the trade, whether it's a tried-and-true favorite or a connoisseur's treasure. So if you've ever been torn between, say, 'Golden Mop', 'Lemon Thread', and 'Sungold' sawara-cypresses, relax - choosing and identifying conifers just got a whole lot easier.

From Booklist
Novice gardeners and savvy designers alike often learn by error when planting conifers. Time passes, and a young specimen may reveal itself as inappropriate for the site for various reasons. Devotee Bitner presents an encyclopedic reference for guidance in selecting coniferous plants to beautify small gardens or thrive in any given landscape. Botanical background is provided along with design advice for everything from topiary to an inviting alle, a forested backdrop to a sequestered nook. To illustrate the breathtaking range of species and cultivated varieties of shrubs and trees, conifers in their myriad shapes and sizes, 1,200 photographs accompany entries describing the hardiness and character of exotic Araucaria and Ginkgo, yew and spruce, cypress and false cypress, firs, cedars, pines, and numerous types of junipers. The enlightening counsel provides detailed plant profiles and cultivation requirements that help demystify conifer selection. Bitner is equally adept at explaining how to identify unusual deciduous species, or specimens in their habitat, pointing out form, foliage, cones, and bark. An excellent resource.
Joyce, Alice Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved
Aimed at general gardeners, woody plant specialists, nursery and landscape professionals, almost every hardy conifer you're likely to encounter is covered in this book. - Sierra Heritage Magazine