

North York Community Council

From: Kody Giallonardo <kody@blackthorncorp.ca>
Sent: June 25, 2025 5:08 PM
To: North York Community Council
Cc: Maurizio Rogato
Subject: [External Sender] Re: Registered Speaker on 369 Soudan Avenue - Link for the July 3, North York Community Council meeting
Attachments: Athlete Tree Service Letter.pdf
Categories: Fortis, Communication

Good evening and hope you are well.

I would like to submit the attached Arborists Letter which speaks to the existing Hedgerow situated in the Front Yard at 369 Soudan Avenue.

It was commissioned to address commentary received regarding the growth rate of the Plantings.

Thank you and looking forward to Council.

Sincerely,

Kody Giallonardo
Chief Administrative Officer



Land Development | Land Use Planning | Project Management | Government Relations

Tel: 416.559.4577

www.blackthorncorp.ca

“This message (and any associated files) is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed. The content of the message is the property of the sender-writer. The message may contain information that is privileged, confidential, subject to copyright and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are notified that any dissemination, distribution, copying, or modification of this message is strictly prohibited. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately, advising of the error and delete this message without making a copy. (Information related to this email is automatically monitored and recorded and the content may be required to be disclosed by Blackthorn Development Corp. to a third party in certain circumstances). Thank you.”



June 24, 2025

PHONE

416.807.8733 work
416.271.6923 cell

E-MAIL

athletetreeservice@me.com
Arboristjon@hotmail.com

WEB

www.athletetree.com

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Emerald Cedar Hedge at 369 Soudan Avenue, Toronto

As the arborist who planted the Emerald Cedar hedge adjacent to the westerly property line at the above-noted property, I am submitting this letter to address recent concerns regarding its potential growth and long-term impact, and to outline the specific environmental limitations present at this site.

Species Overview

Emerald Cedars (*Thuja occidentalis* ‘Smaragd’) are a popular variety of Eastern White Cedar used in residential landscaping for their dense foliage, upright form, and year-round greenery. In ideal conditions (e.g., full sun exposure, adequate spacing, consistent irrigation, and nutrient-rich soil), they are capable of producing up to 12 to 24 inches of new growth annually. However, this rate of growth is only possible in the most perfect, controlled environments, and is rarely achieved outside of well-managed commercial nurseries or professionally maintained landscapes. In typical residential settings, the expected growth rate is considerably more modest – generally between 12 to 18 inches per year – and varies significantly based on local conditions.

Site-Specific Limitations

The cedars at the above-noted property are growing under a range of environmental constraints that significantly limit their growth potential:

- **Limited Sunlight:** The location receives partial sun, reducing the trees’ ability to photosynthesize efficiently.
- **Restricted Spacing:** The trees are planted in close proximity, which increases root competition and limits air circulation, affecting their overall vigour.
- **Lack of Irrigation:** There is no dedicated irrigation system in place, leaving the trees dependent on natural rainfall. Inconsistent moisture availability, particularly during dry periods, contributes to plant stress.
- **No Active Soil or Fertilizer Program:** There is no evidence of ongoing soil conditioning or fertilization, which over time can lead to nutrient depletion in the root zone.

Observed Health and Performance

Since planting, the cedars have shown negligible to minimal new growth. Several trees within the hedge have already begun showing signs of stress, including browning foliage. This is consistent with the impact of the environmental constraints outlined above.

Maintenance and Growth Management

Emerald Cedars respond well to routine pruning and shaping. Regular maintenance can easily control height and density, making it simple to keep the hedge at a consistent, appropriate size. This is a standard and effective practice for managing privacy hedges of this species.

Based on the current site conditions and the species' characteristics, it is highly unlikely that the hedge will exhibit aggressive or unmanageable growth. Any modest annual growth can be controlled through standard maintenance. Ongoing plant stress already observed on site further supports the conclusion that this planting poses no risk of overgrowth or nuisance to neighbouring properties.

For additional context, I have enclosed various excerpts from reputable horticultural sources that further explain the growth characteristics and care requirements of Emerald Cedars.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Muskat

Jonathan Muskat
Certified Arborist
Athlete Tree Service
Phone: 416-807-8733
E-mail: athletetreeservice@me.com

Encls.

12:52

5G

Q maximum emerald cedar growth

All Images Shopping Videos Short video

AI Overview

+11

Emerald cedars (*Thuja occidentalis* 'Smaragd') can reach a maximum height of 15-20 feet and a width of 4-5 feet. They typically grow about **1 foot per year**, with growth slowing down once they reach about 15 feet. They are often used as a privacy screen due to their dense, columnar shape and ability to fill in from the ground up.



Factors Affecting Growth:

- **Sunlight:** Emerald cedars thrive in full sun to partial shade.
- **Soil:** They prefer moist, well-drained soil and do not like to dry out, especially when young.
- **Watering:** Consistent moisture is important, especially during the first year and in dry summer months.
- **Spacing:** Proper spacing between plants allows for optimal growth and prevents overcrowding.

12:53

5G

pacificwestcedars.com



PACIFIC WEST
CEDARS



Water

Emerald Cedars need plenty of water, especially newly planted ones. They are moderately drought resistant, but this is only after they are well established. Your Emerald Cedars will do better and grow bigger if they are watered on a regular schedule during a dry season.

Spacing

Spacing will have a big influence on the final size of your shrubs. When shrubs are planted very close together, they have less room for their roots to spread out. However, if they are planted very far apart, then it will take a few years for them to fill in to create a privacy hedge. The closer they are spaced, the quicker you will have privacy. So, how far apart you space them depends on how quickly you want your hedge filled in and how high you want them to get. When used as a hedge, Emerald Cedars are usually planted between 18 to 36 inches apart depending on your needs.

Nutrients

Emerald ('Smaragd') Cedars need nutrients to grow well, just like other plants, shrubs, and trees. If you have good quality soil, then they will get most or all of their nutrients from the ground. However, if you don't have good quality soil, then giving them appropriate fertilizer is a

FAQ | The Cedar Guys

+ Q: I want an ESTIMATE. Do you require a site visit before you plant?

- Q: How much will my new cedar trees grow every year?

Cedars do not grow dramatically in the first season (they expel most of their energy setting up their root system in their new environment). With proper care (see watering/mulch/fertilizer) they will grow 1 ft – 1½ ft per season.

+ Q: How wide will my new hedge grow?

+ Q: How long will it take for my new cedar trees to become a thick, full, privacy hedge?

shallow, fibrous root system that makes them the ideal tree for planting around a pool or any other location with underground obstacles. The roots tend to go around objects, such as fence posts, rather than disturbing them.



There is the common misconception that cedars attract mosquitoes. Cedars tend to grow in moist conditions, just the type of environment mosquitoes thrive in. It is the case of the environment causing the mosquitoes to breed, not the cedars. The key to eliminating mosquitoes is to remove standing water from a property if possible. Low areas with improper drainage and rain barrels are two of the most common breeding zones.

There are four options available that will provide the desired result and all share the same basic requirements in terms of habitat. Average to moist soil conditions is preferred and the tree shouldn't be allowed to dry out. No specific pH or soil type is necessary and cedars are mostly tolerant of urban conditions. A relatively sheltered location is preferred to help limit desiccation and it is beneficial to apply mulch around the base to protect the exposed portion of the tree. Growth over the first 2 years can be negligible as the root system gets established but from the 3rd year on can grow up to a 1'-1-1/2' a year. All cedars take pruning well and are easy to form.

White Cedar:

The White Cedar is a tall pyramidal tree with a dense, strong central



13:02

5G

plantingtree.com



Emerald Green Arborvitae Spacing

For a **privacy hedge**, plant about 3 feet apart on center. This evergreen tree has very dense foliage and is fairly even in width from top to bottom, so you want to avoid planting Emerald Green trees too close.

Plant at least 4 feet from your home or a fence to give the foliage enough air circulation, more if you want to be able to get behind them when they are full size. The roots of the **Arborvitae Emerald Green** are not invasive so planting near pools, sidewalks, driveways, etc isn't a problem. Just give the roots at least a couple of feet on each side to spread out when planting next to something deep like a foundation.

For specimen or group plantings plant about 5 to 6 feet apart to give each tree plenty of room to shine on its own.

Emerald Green

Live Chat

13:05

5G

evergreenlls.com

License Numbers: Commercial Pesticide -
#0609724 | Irrigation - #L10024733



Emerald Green Arborvitae are often prized for their use as a hedge or screen plant. They are fairly low-maintenance and look good year-round.

The name "arborvitae" comes from the French, l'arbre de vie, or tree of life. It stays attractive in all seasons and releases a pleasing aroma when the needles of the tree are squeezed.

Emerald Green Arborvitae are a type of evergreen that grows at a relatively slow rate, less than one foot per year.

Once established, they usually grow about 6-9 inches a year. These evergreens and can take 10-15 years to reach their mature height of 10 to 15 feet. They have a spread of around 3-4 feet at maturity.

Here are a few things you can do to help this evergreen to grow healthy and strong.

License Numbers: Commercial Pesticide -
#0609724 | Irrigation - #LI0024733



The Emerald Green Arborvitae mostly resistant to diseases and insects. Watch for poor air circulation that can cause fungi and remove bagworms and their egg sacks for preventative maintenance.

Final Thoughts

Overall, while not the fastest growing tree, the Emerald Green Arborvitae offers much in its attractiveness and low maintenance. It is a good option for a foundation plant, accents or as a screen, depending on how and where you choose to plant them.

RELATED TIP: Top Full sun shrubs for North Texas

How to What Should

EMERALD CEDAR

Emerald Green, Arborvitae Evergreen: Also known as an Eastern White Cedar / *Thuja occidentalis* 'Smaragd'.

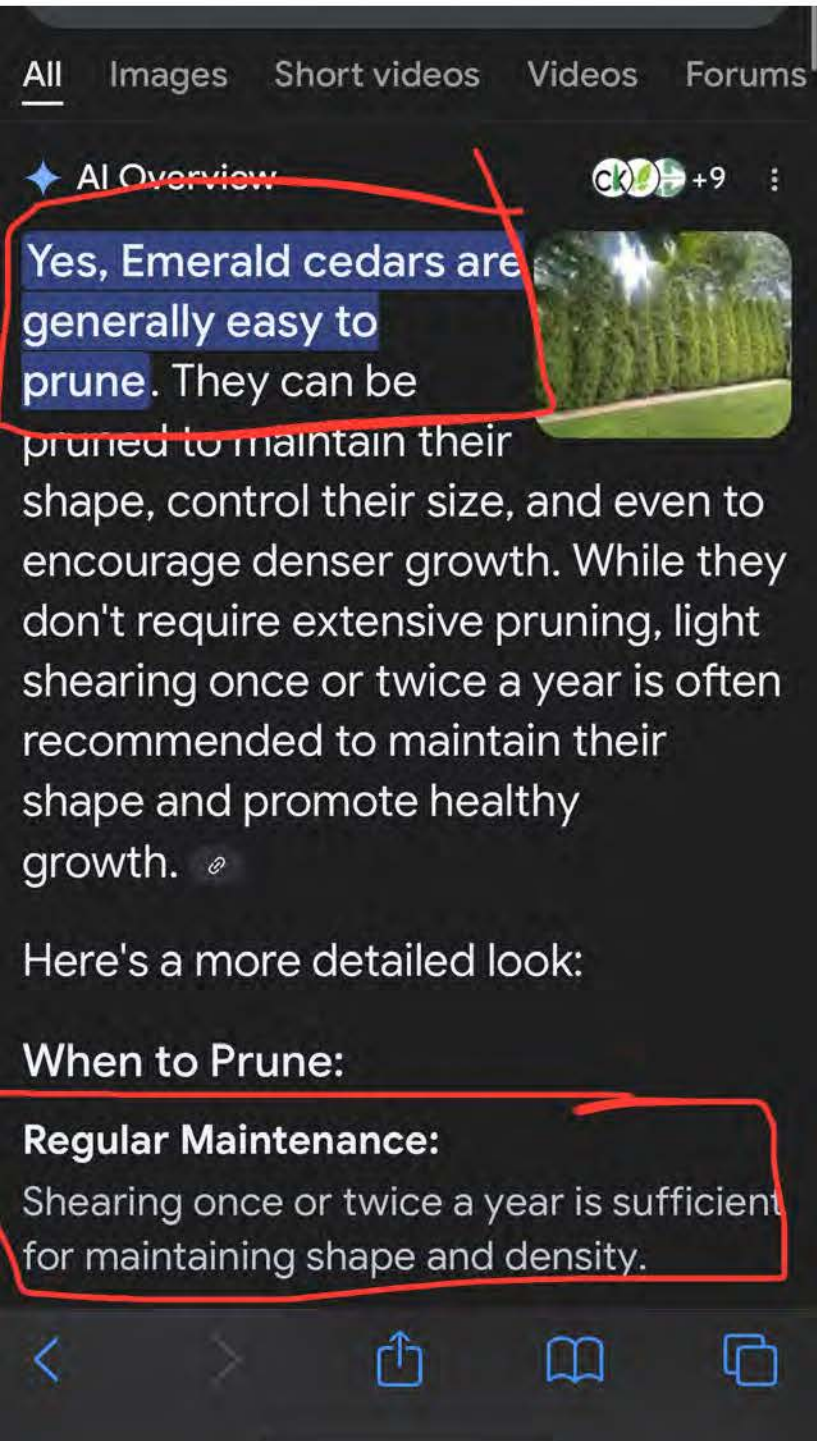
The Emerald Cedars are characterized by glossy dark green, tight foliage. They are most commonly used to create privacy screens and noise barriers due to their tendency to grow thick and dense.

Emerald cedars are tall and compact, and are usually planted 2 feet apart for privacy hedges (stem to stem.) They grow best in full sun, and are fine in just about any soil. Emeralds are low maintenance, only requiring pruning once per year, and they grow well in areas subject to high atmospheric moisture.

The Emerald Cedars typically grow in a pyramid shape, at a rate of about 1 foot vertically and 4-6 inches horizontally per year. At maturity, the Emerald can reach heights above 20 feet and 3 to 4 feet in width. The average life span is traditionally between 20 to 30 years.

Emerald Cedars are hearty in zones 3-7





13:28



cedarkings.ca

Pruning Techniques for Different Goals:

1. Hedge Formation:

To create a formal hedge with emerald cedars, follow these steps:

- Start by pruning the tops of your cedars when they reach the desired height. This encourages lateral growth and ensures a thick, dense hedge.
- Use a string or guide to maintain a straight line while trimming the sides. Trim the sides at a slight taper, with the top being narrower than the base to allow sunlight to reach the lower branches.
- Regularly maintain this shape by trimming the top and sides as needed, typically once or twice a year.

2. Size Control:

To control the size of your emerald cedars, follow these tips:

- Trim the branches that extend beyond the desired size, making clean cuts just above a lateral branch or bud.
- For vertical growth control, prune the main leader (central stem) to the desired height.
- Keep in mind that emerald cedars are forgiving and can withstand significant pruning.

3. Health Maintenance: