

# *Juniperus scopulorum* 'Tolleson's Green Weeping' 'Tolleson's Green Weeping' Rocky Mountain Juniper<sup>1</sup>

Edward F. Gilman and Dennis G. Watson<sup>2</sup>

## INTRODUCTION

*Juniperus scopulorum* is a native plant that can be found in the western United States (Fig. 1). This cultivar grows to about 25 to 30 feet tall with an equal spread. Arching branches grow up and out from the trunk bearing foliage which hangs almost like Weeping Willow. The tree is very striking and will provoke comments from neighbors. This and other weeping trees look very nice planted close to water, but be sure to keep the root zone on the dry side. It is similar to other Junipers in that it requires a full sun exposure and will tolerate dry and droughty soils. It is useful as a privacy screen or makes a wonderful specimen. This Juniper is difficult to grow in the south due to disease problems, but might be accomplished in a well-drained, dry site.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**Scientific name:** *Juniperus scopulorum* 'Tolleson's Green Weeping'

**Pronunciation:** joo-NIP-er-us skop-yoo-LOR-um

**Common name(s):** 'Tolleson's Green Weeping' Rocky Mountain Juniper, 'Tollesons Green Weeping' Colorado Redcedar

**Family:** *Cupressaceae*

**USDA hardiness zones:** 4 through 9A (Fig. 2)

**Origin:** native to North America

**Uses:** Bonsai; screen; specimen; no proven urban tolerance

**Availability:** grown in small quantities by a small number of nurseries

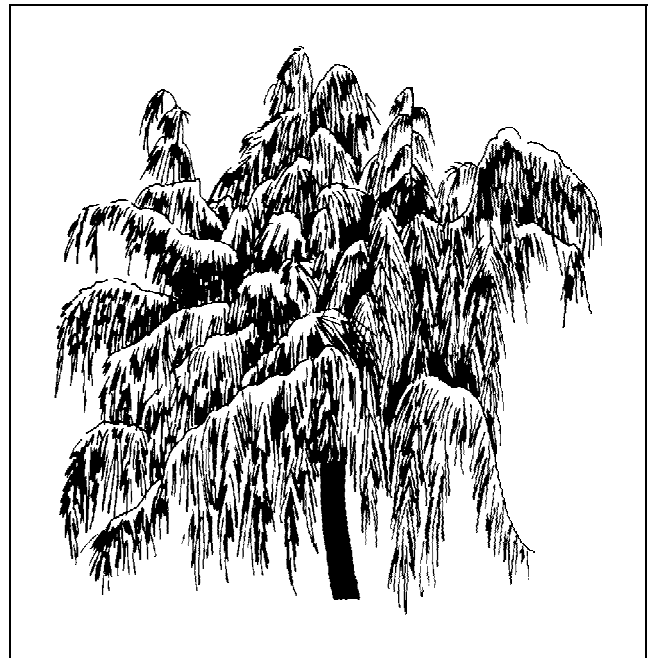


Figure 1. Middle-aged 'Tolleson's Green Weeping' Rocky Mountain Juniper.

## DESCRIPTION

**Height:** 25 to 30 feet

**Spread:** 25 to 30 feet

**Crown uniformity:** irregular outline or silhouette

**Crown shape:** weeping

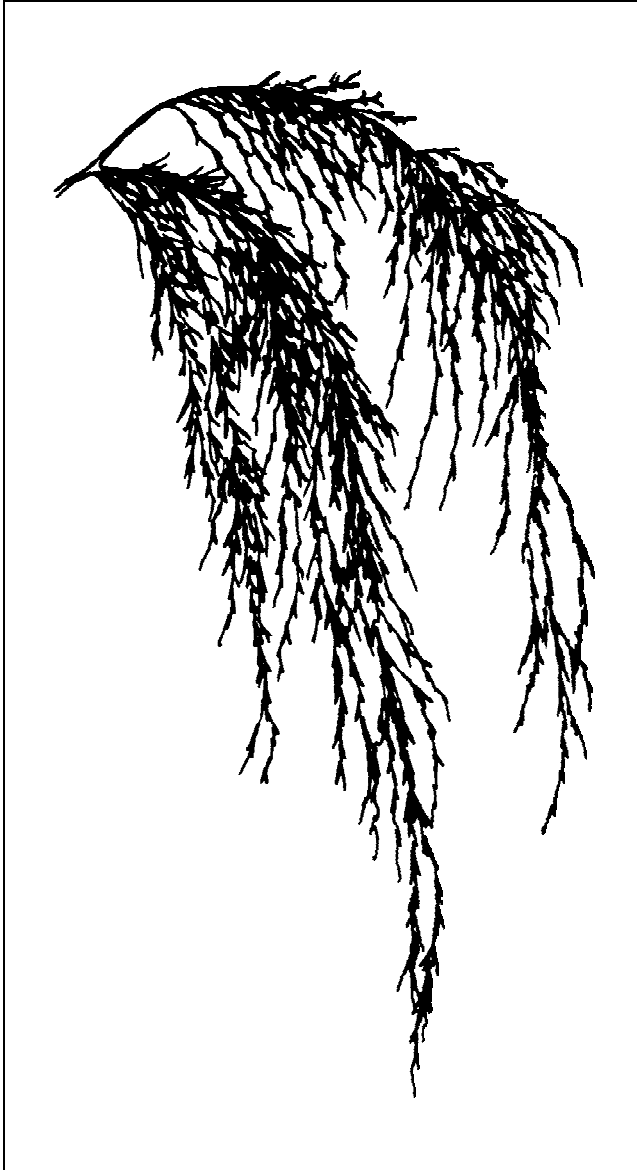
**Crown density:** moderate

**Growth rate:** medium

**Texture:** fine

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**Figure 3.** Foliage of 'Tolleson's Green Weeping' Rocky Mountain Juniper.

### Other

**Roots:** surface roots are usually not a problem

**Winter interest:** no special winter interest

**Outstanding tree:** tree has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more

**Invasive potential:** little, if any, potential at this time

**Verticillium wilt susceptibility:** not known to be susceptible

**Pest resistance:** long-term health usually not affected by pests

## USE AND MANAGEMENT

There are many other cultivars of this plant available to consumers due to the efforts of nursery operators. Only a small sample of their variability will be presented here. 'Gray Gleam' - silvery gray foliage, pyramidal, slow growing to 15 feet in 30 years; 'Skyrocket' - very narrow columnar growth, bluish green foliage. After the plant reaches about 15 feet tall (after about 10 to 15 years) it is subject to bending of the lateral branches, some to the ground, ruining its form. 'Table Top' - semi-upright, flat-topped growth habit, silvery gray foliage, five feet high in 10 years; 'Wichita Blue' - bright blue cast to foliage, pyramidal form.

### Pests

Bagworm caterpillars web foliage together to make bags up to two inches long. The insects live in the bags and emerge to feed on the foliage. Use sprays of *Bacillus thuringiensis*. The insects can also be picked off the plants by hand.

Juniper scale causes yellowed needles, and infected branches fail to produce new growth. The scale is round and at first white, later turning gray or black.

The Juniper webworm webs twigs and needles together, causing them to brown and die. The larva is 1/2-inch-long and is brown with darker stripes. The larvae are often in the densest part of the plant and can go unnoticed.

Mites cause stippled and bronzed foliage.

### Diseases

Twig blight causes death and browning of twig tips. The disease may progress down the stem killing the whole branch. Small lesions may be seen at the base of dead tissue. Prune out dead branch tips.

Three rust diseases seen most often are cedar-apple rust, hawthorn rust, and quince rust. Cedar-apple is the most common. On Juniper the disease forms galls that form orange jelly-like horns in spring. The horns are most likely to form following periods of rainy, warm weather. Spores formed in the horns infect the alternate host. The diseases are more serious on the alternate host than Juniper. A separation of a few hundred yards may help avoid the

disease. Prune out the spore horns when seen in the spring.

Junipers are not tolerant of ice coatings. Expect dieback when Junipers are covered with ice for several days. Removing the ice is impractical.