



Tsuga 'Traveler'



Botanical Name: *Tsuga chinensis* × *caroliniana* 'Traveler'
(NA81144; PI690762)

Hardiness: USDA Zones 6a -7b/8

Development: *Tsuga* 'Traveler' originated from a controlled cross made at the National Arboretum in 1992 between *Tsuga chinensis* (NA 12347) and *T. caroliniana*. The objective was to incorporate the resistance to hemlock woolly adelgid of *T. chinensis* into an attractive landscape tree that resembles the native *Tsuga* species. Twelve seedlings of this cross were planted as part of a larger field trial for evaluation beginning in 2002. 'Traveler' was one of several plants showing resistance in both field and polyhouse inoculations of clonal plant material with the adelgid.

Significance: 'Traveler' is the first interspecific hybrid hemlock to be released to the trade. It was specifically bred for resistance to hemlock woolly adelgid, and was selected for its symmetrical, slightly pendulous habit, tolerance to hemlock woolly adelgid, and moderately slow growth rate. It promises to be a valuable addition to residential, commercial, and possibly forest landscapes.

Description: **Height and width:** 30 feet tall and 18 feet wide after 15 years of field growth in Beltsville, MD.
Habit: Evergreen, symmetric pyramidal habit with slightly weeping branches.
Foliage: Long, flat, narrow needles, similar to those of the parents, but longer than *T. canadensis*.
Cones: Abundant large green cones develop in late summer and are slightly glossy, maturing and opening to light brown, 1-1.5 inches long, in October.

Propagation: Rooting occurs over 8-24 weeks from cuttings taken in December/January using bottom heat, or early summer before the second growth flush using 3000-8000 ppm IBA or IBA+NAA under mist.

Landscape Use: Specimen tree in a large yard or park or an informal large screen; transplants well from containers.

Availability: Limited availability. Interested wholesale growers may contact Susan.Bentz@usda.gov or Margaret.Pooler@usda.gov