Mugo Pine

Pinus mugo

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Summary:
- Foliage: 1 to 2 inch long needles; 2 needles per fascicle (bundle); evergreen
- Height: Depends on cultivar
- Spread: Depends on cultivar
- Shape: most dwarf types have a low mound form or an upright oval form; the species is a medium to large multi-stem tree form
- Main Features: Generally only dwarf forms of mugo pine are sold at garden centers; the species (non-dwarf) is a multi-stem medium to large tree. Dwarf forms vary in their growth rate from 1 to 8 inches per year, and in their form (mounded to upright oval). Hence, cultivar selection is important to match the cultivar to the available garden/landscape space. Cultivars are useful in mass, as foundation plants, and to frame a landscape element (e.g., entryway, walkway, art work); individual cultivars will be discussed in the Additional Information section.
- Mugo pine tolerates dry and alkaline soil.

Plant Needs:
- Zone: 3 to 7 (will languish in hotter portions of zone 7)
- Light: Full sun
- Moisture: Average to dry
- pH range: Acid to alkaline

Functions:
- Dwarf forms of mugo pine are useful in mass, as foundation plants, and to frame a landscape element (e.g., entryway, walkway, art work).

Care:
- No special care is needed. If pruning is required, then candle growth (newly emerging shoots in spring) should be cut in half.

Additional Information:
- There are numerous cultivars in the trade (more than 40). Some of the popular ones are:
  - ‘Mops’ slow-growing globe-shaped form
  - var. pumilo (Pumilo Group) wide-growing form
  - ‘Sherwood Compact’ slow-growing flat mound form
  - ‘Slowmound’ slow-growing mounded form
  - ‘Tannenbaum’ tall-growing form (10 feet +) with a dense conical form