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Suburban Gardener

Brown's, Hick's, Ward's... Which Is Yew For You?

By BETTY FRANKEL
Yew Who?

This may sound like a ridiculous pun, but it's a question that is apt to be asked in all serious cases when the home owner goes to the nursery or garden center to buy evergreens. He's confronted with an array of small balled or potted specimens all looking more or less alike but bearing tags with names such as Brown's yew, Hick's yew, Ward's yew, Halffield yew and many others. Or the tags may have the scientific terminology such as *Taxus cuspidata* or *Taxus media*.

At this point he may be thoroughly bewildered because there are well over four dozen different kinds of yews sold for landscape planting. They all have the scientific name of *Taxus* and are varieties of either the English yew, the Japanese yew, or hybrids of the two.

They all have attractive deep green needles arranged along the twigs in matching pairs to make rather flat sprays. Some, but not all, are studded with fleshy red berries. It's important to know what the yew you buy will grow into. Some will reach stately proportions and grow as tall as the house. Others will remain little low cushions of greenery. If you want the added bonus of berries, buy female plants. The sexes are on separate plants.

Highland

Bentgrass

Rates High

Bentgrasses are generally considered the most exquisite of the turfgrasses. They are a bit more difficult to care for than most bluegrasses and fescues, but their fine, carpet-like texture is second to none. Creeping bentgrasses build a thatch rather quickly, one trailing stem climbing atop another. Colonial bentgrasses, however, are more erect, looser, and need thinning or topdressing only occasionally if at all.

THE CANADA yew (*Taxus canadensis*) is a native American yew that is very hardy but it has a yellowish less attractive color than the other yews. It grows well in shade, reaching three to six feet in height.

The English yew (*Taxus baccata*) has been grown in America since Colonial times but it is less hardy than the Japanese Yew (*Taxus cuspidata*) which was introduced into this country until about 1860. The English yew can reach 60 feet in height, and an ancient but living tree in England is believed to over one thousand years old.

There are numerous varieties of English yew, including some varieties such as *Taxus baccata* repandans which remain low and spreading. (Note that the scientific name includes "repandans" which is the generic name for all yews, and "baccata" which is the name for all English yews, and then "repandans" which is the name for this particular variety of English yew.) *Taxus baccata stricta* is a type of English yew known as the Irish yew. It is very picturesque with an upright columnar form.

JAPANESE YEW (*Taxus cuspidata*) are widely grown and are very dependable. The type species can grow into a 50-foot tall tree, but many varieties have been developed from it so that Japanese yew, there are numerous varieties that are smaller. The dwarf Japanese yew (*Taxus cuspidata nana*) is one that is widely available. It has a rounded bushy form and a good dark green color. If left unpruned, it will after many years be about ten feet high and have a spread of twenty feet. Even though this is called the dwarf Japanese yew, there are numerous varieties that are smaller.

Smallest is variety "mini-ma" which is less than a foot tall and spreads about eight inches. "Aureoscens" has a yellow tinge and is a foot high with a three-foot spread. *Taxus cuspidata densa* is one of the handsomest dwarf evergreens. After many years it is four feet tall but with a spread of eight feet. Variety "expansa" reaches five feet and has a vase shape lower in the center.

AROUND 1900 the English yew and the Japanese yew were crossed and the resulting species was called *Taxus media*. It is an excellent ornamental with an upright central trunk and a broad pyramid shape. It can reach 40 feet tall, but there are numerous popular varieties of it that are smaller.

Brown's yew is a variety of *Taxus media* with fine needles and a dense conical form. It can be pruned into a globe shape, if desired. Halffield yew is upright and columnar. It looks much like the Irish yew but is harder and makes an excellent formal accent.

Hicks yew can also be planted in a row and sheared to make a beautiful hedge.

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Points To Check When Planning Kitchen

Here are six points to consider when planning a kitchen.

Since good kitchen planning depends upon a thorough knowledge of the family's pattern of living, it is best to check these key points before discussing ideas with your lumber dealer, carpenter or contractor.

1. Will the kitchen be used for meals as well as food preparation?
2. Do you plan on entertaining quite a bit in the future?
3. Are there small children in the family who must be watched or fed in the kitchen?
4. Will teens want to use the kitchen for informal get-togethers?
5. Would the family like a comfortable relaxation area adjacent to the kitchen?
6. Do you want to include a laundry center in the renovated kitchen?

MANY OF THESE questions revolve around the question of how much room is available. An adjacent family room or

laundry center cannot be included if there just isn't enough space, but a washer and dryer might be placed at the end of a food preparation counter.

An L-shaped bench in a corner of the kitchen would provide a spot for relaxation if a complete family room can't be included. If meals are to be served in the kitchen, space must be provided for a table, built-in nook or counter arrangement. These facilities are extremely versatile because they can be used by Mom for correspondence and by children for school and hobby work.

If there are teens who are learning to cook, or if you expect a great deal of entertaining, ample work and storage facilities must be included in the master plan. Provide a spot for Dad to store his refreshment supplies and set up a bar.

Efficient work space, good appliances, and a workable layout will complete the first

phase of a kitchen plan. Now it is time to plan the decor and choose the materials.

A KITCHEN should be personalized. Its decor must be harmonized with the dominant theme of the house, or it can be designed as a decorative highlight for the entire home. Most interior decorators recommend a "split" decor, or one that has a dominant accent area. This can be accomplished by paneling the dining area in a high-fidelity wood-

grain, for instance, to accent the eating facilities.

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