

Checklist: Buying & Planting 10-ft Evergreen Trees (Spruce, Fir, Pine)

This checklist covers choosing species, comparing prices, arranging delivery and planting, and ensuring the first 90 days of care for success.

Why 10-ft Evergreens

Instant privacy, shade, and visual impact without years of waiting.

Well-developed root system makes them more resilient than smaller saplings.

Stronger presence in landscaping and property value boost.

Species Comparison

Pine - Fast growth (2-3 ft/yr), tolerant of varied soils, easier adaptation.

Spruce - Iconic conical shape, blue/gray tones, slower growth (~1 ft/yr), needs good drainage.

Fir - Balanced growth and resilience, soft needles, great for windbreaks and aesthetics.

Where to Buy

Local nurseries/farms - inspect in person, often offer installation & warranty.

Wholesale farms - best for bulk orders or rare species.

Online stores - convenient, but confirm size measurements, shipping terms, and warranty.

Price & Value

10-ft trees cost significantly more than 6-ft but offer maturity and resilience.

Expect \$600-\$1,500+ depending on species and region.

Cost per foot generally decreases as trees get larger.

Delivery & Planting

Plan for professional transport: flatbed trucks, straps, branch protection.

Dig a hole wider than root ball; depth so root flare is level with ground.

Plant early morning to reduce heat stress.

Schedule equipment (loader, crane) if site access is difficult.

Aftercare (First 90 Days)

Deep watering 2-3 times per week, adjusting for rainfall.

Mulch 3 in in a donut shape, not touching trunk.

Protect from strong winds with staking or wind screens.

Monitor needle color - yellowing indicates water or soil stress.

Soil & Drainage Check

Test drainage before planting - fill hole with water; ensure it drains within 24h.

Avoid waterlogged sites; raised beds or soil amendment may be required.

Match species to soil: spruce/fir need better drainage, pine tolerates poorer soils.

Climate Recommendations

Colder zones - Spruce and Fir handle harsh winters better.

Warmer/drier zones - Pines adapt more easily.

Transitional climates - Mix species for year-round reliability.

Red Flags

Trees with yellowing needles or brittle roots.

No clear warranty or delivery policy.

Vague origin (can't verify where/when tree was grown).

Why this matters

Following this checklist helps avoid costly mistakes when investing in 10-ft evergreens. It ensures the right species for your climate, proper delivery and planting, and strong survival rates after transplant - maximizing your landscaping investment.

Print on A4 • Use during nursery visits or when scheduling delivery.