

Evergreen Landscaping Prices — Practical Buyer's Checklist (2025)

Use this checklist to estimate real costs for evergreen trees — from nursery price anchors and pro planting to hidden logistics. Keep it handy when comparing quotes or shopping in person.

Budget Planner (Quick Math)

Trees (by size/species) + Delivery + Professional planting + Materials (mulch, stakes) + Contingency 10-15%.

Set a per-tree cap and a total project cap before visiting nurseries.

Plan spacing (privacy rows need multiple trees; cost scales quickly).

Price Anchors (What Trees Cost)

Small saplings (3-4 ft) often \$30-\$50 for pines; 6-7 ft pines about \$100-\$300; 15 ft mature pines about \$800-\$2,500+ (species-dependent).

10-ft spruce example: ~ \$400 vs ~ \$125 for 6-ft Norway spruce (instant impact premium).

Regional averages vary: many Midwest medium trees ~\$150-\$300; coastal metro areas \$400-\$600 for similar sizes.

Size Tradeoffs (Small vs Mature)

Small: lower upfront price, faster establishment, but years to reach screening height.

Mature (10-15 ft): instant privacy/impact; higher price and tighter aftercare for first season.

Growth expectations: many pines ~1-2 ft/year with good care (varies by species and climate).

Where to Buy (Local vs Online)

Local nurseries/farms: inspect exact specimen, local acclimation, easier warranty and install services.

Online: wider selection; verify how height is measured (from top of root ball?), shipping inclusions, and written warranty.

Wholesale farms: cost-effective for bulk privacy rows; confirm minimums and delivery truck access.

Planting Costs (Labor & Gear)

Typical pro planting fee may add a few hundred dollars per tree, depending on size, access, and equipment.

Large trees can require loaders/cranes, digging wider holes, and staking - allow budget for gear/time.

Ask if watering-in, mulch ring, and staking are included in the planting line item.

Hidden/Extra Costs

Site prep: stump/rock removal, soil amendment, irrigation line tweaks.

Difficult access surcharges: long carries, narrow gates, slopes, soft lawns (protection mats).

Follow-up care: first-season watering, mulch top-ups, deer protection fencing.

Logistics & Access

Measure gates/paths; confirm truck/flatbed approach and turning radius.

Schedule morning installs to reduce heat stress; secure trees for wind during transit.
Assign responsibility for damage risk in transit and on-site (in writing).

Best Timing & Discounts

Dormant season (early spring/fall) = better transplant success and frequent sales.
Ask for off-peak discounts, cosmetic-grade pricing, or bundle pricing for rows.
Reserve stock early in high-demand regions to avoid price spikes.

Paperwork & Warranty

Itemized quote: tree, delivery, planting, materials, warranty terms.
Written first-year care instructions; contact & response time for claims.
Clarify replacement policy if a tree fails within the warranty window.

Money-Savers Checklist

Mix sizes: anchor with a few larger trees, fill with smaller to cut total cost.
Buy local species/grades that are common and hardy for your zone.
DIY parts of the job (mulch ring/guards) if allowed by installer.

Example Budgets

Scenario	Trees	Per-Tree (est.)	Extras	Total (est.)
Starter privacy (6 trees, 6–7 ft pine)	6	\$150-\$300	Delivery + planting + mulch	\$1,800-\$3,600+
Mixed row (3 trees 10 ft spruce + 4 trees 8 ft pine)	7	\$400-\$1,500-\$300	Crane/loader possible	\$3,000-\$4,500+
Single specimen (15 ft pine)	1	\$800-\$2,500+	Pro install + staking	\$1,200-\$3,500+

Why this checklist matters

This checklist turns vague quotes into a clear, line-by-line plan. With price anchors, hidden-cost prompts, and example budgets, you can compare offers apples-to-apples, avoid surprise fees, and choose the right tree sizes for impact today and value over time.