

Juniperus rigida subsp. *conferta* ‘Blue Lagoon’



The U.S. National Arboretum presents *Juniperus rigida* subsp. *conferta* ‘Blue Lagoon’, a handsome groundcover juniper for difficult places. Forming a dense mat, ‘Blue Lagoon’ is lower growing and more compact than the typical form or previous cultivars of shore juniper. Its medium bluish-green summer color is transformed in winter to a beautiful plum hue. This sturdy plant can be counted on to meet the challenges of some of the most difficult garden areas.



U.S. National Arboretum Plant Introduction
Floral and Nursery Plants Research Unit





'Blue Lagoon' shore juniper

Botanical name:	<i>Juniperus rigida</i> Sieb. & Zucc. subsp. <i>conferta</i> (Parl.) Kitam. 'Blue Lagoon' (NA 40040; PI-564264)
Family:	Cupressaceae
Hardiness:	USDA Zones 6–8
Development:	In 1976, former U.S. National Arboretum Director Dr. John L. Creech and Horticulturist Sylvester G. March discovered this plant in cultivation at the Aritaki Arboretum, Saitama Prefecture, Japan. Cuttings of this plant were brought back to the U.S. National Arboretum and propagated. Following nine years of evaluation in the Gotelli Conifer Collection at the Arboretum, the plant was named 'Blue Lagoon' and released in 1992.
Significance:	'Blue Lagoon' is lower growing and more compact than the species or other named cultivars of shore juniper. It forms a tight mat at maturity and has an annual growth rate of eight to ten inches. The medium bluish-green foliage turns a plum color in winter. The plant is extremely drought- and salt-tolerant.
Description:	<p>Height and Width: 6 inches tall, with an annual horizontal growth rate of eight to ten inches.</p> <p>Habit: Evergreen, low-growing, prostrate shrub, forming a dense mat at maturity.</p> <p>Foliage: Medium bluish-green color with a single white stomatal band on each small, awl-shaped needle. Foliage turns a plum color in winter.</p> <p>Fruit: Male clone; no seed is produced.</p>
Culture:	Performs well in sandy or poor soils, and tolerates both drought and high salt levels. Avoid planting in areas of excessive moisture or in poorly drained soils. Grows best in full sun but will tolerate partial shade.
Propagation:	Roots fairly easily from cuttings of current year's growth with a small portion of second-year wood included. Take cuttings after first fall frost, treat with 8000 ppm IBA, and root under mist in Perlite.
Landscape use:	Excellent evergreen ground cover for use in dry, sandy areas or shore plantings. Dense, prostrate growth habit and tolerance of poor soil conditions make it an excellent choice for difficult urban sites, highway embankments, shopping areas, industrial parks, recreational areas, and mass plantings as a ground cover.
Availability:	Limited availability from mail-order firms and retail and wholesale nurseries.

U.S. National Arboretum Plant Introduction
Floral and Nursery Plants Research Unit

Visit us on the web: www.usna.usda.gov

