



Horstmann's Silberlocke Korean Fir

Abies koreana 'Horstmann's Silberlock'

Pine Family (Pinaceae)

Zones: 5-7

Full Sun to Partial Shade

Moderate Water

Location: Rose Garden

Quite a show stopper, this tree looks stunning as a specimen, or grouped in cluster or mass planting with other Silberlockes. The leaves are a bluish-green, but new leaves emerge silver and then fade to seafoam green with the undersides of the leaves staying a bright silver, as is shown by the needles curling back up around the stem. The size and nature of the needles gives this fir a refined pyramidal form and fine texture.

The name 'Hortsmann' is given after a German plantsman by the name of Gunter Horstmann. Horstmann ran a nursery with his wife, Elisabeth, that specialized in conifers. They were the first to introduce the cultivar in 1986.

Slow growing, at a rate of about 3 inches a year, it will reach 10 feet tall and 6 feet wide in 10 years. This fir will reach approximately 12 feet when fully mature. As most Korean firs grow at higher elevations and prefer cooler temperatures, the Silberlocke is unique in that it performs well in lower elevations and can handle high temperatures.

Horstmann's Silberlock needs regular watering and will thrive in well-drained soil. Adding mulch in the winter will protect the root zone when planted in an exposed area. The Horstmann's Silberlocke does not tolerate urban environments with high pollution.