

THE TREE LIST

Evergreen Trees

For The Kansas City Region

(As Rated by Metropolitan Area Experts)

A study by Robert Whitman RLA, AICP, LEED AP

The Tree List: Evergreen Trees For The Kansas City Region (As Rated By Metropolitan Area Experts) was a 2012-2013 study conducted by Robert Whitman, RLA, AICP, LEED AP, in which Kansas City region tree experts were asked to provide numerical opinions (0-5 ratings) in each category for evergreen trees they have tested/observed from a master list of 154 evergreen trees. These ratings were averaged to determine the tree ratings for each category.

Study Participants:

Alan Branhagen, Director of Horticulture, Powell Gardens; **Cameron Rees**, Skinner Garden Store; **Cheryl Boyer**, Assistant Professor, K-State Extension; **Chip Winslow**, FASLA, KSU Department of Landscape Architecture; **Chuck Conner**, Forester, Missouri Department of Conservation; **Dennis Patton**, Johnson County Extension Agent; **Don Mann**, Loma Vista Nursery; **Duane Hoover**, Horticulturist, Kauffman Memorial Garden; **Ivan Katzer**, Consulting Arborist; **Jason Griffin PhD**, KSU John C. Pair Horticultural Center; **Kim Bomberger**, Community Forester, Kansas Forest Service; **Marvin Snyder**, Past President, American Conifer Society; **Mic Mills**, Rosehill Gardens; **Michael Dougherty**, Tree Management Company; **Rick Spurgeon**, Olathe City Arborist; **Robert Whitman**, Landscape Architect, Multistudio; **Scott Reiter**, Linda Hall Library; **Susan Mertz**, Loma Vista Nursery; and **Tim McDonnell**, Forester, Kansas Forest Service

PINE TREES

KEY	*** = Well Tested/Observed in Kansas City region	😊 = Super tree for this condition	😞 = Very Poor tree for this condition
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	* = Not Well Tested/Observed in Kansas City region (Buyer Beware)	😟 = Poor tree for this condition	

Score	Size	Tree Name	Rating							Comments
			As specimen	As buffer or massing	Culturally adaptable	Heavy soils	Drought tolerant	Lifespan		
**	15x9	<i>Pinus aristata</i> Bristlecone Pine	😟	😞	😟	😞	🙂	😟	Needs excellent drainage, dislikes Kansas City humidity	
*	35x20	<i>Pinus ayacahuite</i> Mexican White Pine	🙂	😊	😊	😊	😊	✖	Limited experience, but shows promise	
**	35x22	<i>Pinus banksiana</i> Jack Pine	😞	😞	🙂	🙂	🙂	😟	Pine wilt when under stress	
**	25x18	<i>Pinus bungeana</i> Lacebark Pine	😊	🙂	🙂	😟	🙂	🙂	Excellent performer with interesting bark	
*	22x11	<i>Pinus cembra</i> Swiss Stone Pine	🙂	😟	😟	😞	😟	✖	Limited local success, slow grower	
**	30x20	<i>Pinus densiflora</i> Japanese Red Pine	🙂	😟	🙂	🙂	🙂	😟	Some local success, very open habit	
**	14x12	<i>Pinus densiflora</i> 'Umbraculifera' Tabletop Pine	😊	😟	🙂	🙂	🙂	😟	Some local success, interesting flattop specimen	
***	30x17	<i>Pinus flexilis</i> 'Vanderwolf's' Limber Pine	🙂	🙂	🙂	🙂	🙂	🙂	Green-blue color, can get needle blight	
*	35x20	<i>Pinus koraiensis</i> Korean Pine	🙂	🙂	🙂	😊	🙂	✖	Loose form, some local success	
*	28x15	<i>Pinus leucodermis</i> Bosnian Pine	🙂	🙂	🙂	😟	😊	✖	Some local success, black pine replacement	
***	12x14	<i>Pinus mugo</i> Mugo Pine	😟	😞	🙂	🙂	🙂	🙂	Variation in size, pine wilt and scale problems	
*	12x7	<i>Pinus mugo</i> 'Tannenbaum' Tannenbaum Pine	🙂	😟	🙂	🙂	🙂	✖	Attractive form, small pine alternative	
***	55x30	<i>Pinus nigra</i> Austrian Pine	😞	😞	😟	😊	😊	😞	Severe diplodia tip blight, short lived	
**	35x19	<i>Pinus parviflora</i> Japanese White Pine	😟	😟	😟	🙂	🙂	🙂	Attractive pine, some local success	
***	50x30	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i> Ponderosa Pine	😞	😟	😟	😟	😊	😊	Pine tip moth, fungal problems	
**	40x18	<i>Pinus resinosa</i> Red Pine	😞	😟	😞	🙂	😟	😞	Too hot in KC for this pine	
**	40x25	<i>Pinus strobiformis</i> Southwestern White Pine	🙂	🙂	🙂	😟	😊	🙂	Performs well here and Southwest of KC	
***	60x30	<i>Pinus strobus</i> Eastern White Pine	😟	🙂	🙂	🙂	😟	😊	Drought susceptible, chlorosis, good pine	
***	45x16	<i>Pinus strob.</i> 'Fastigiata' Columnar White Pine	🙂	🙂	🙂	🙂	😟	😊	Same as species but better for narrow sites	
***	45x25	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i> Scotch Pine	😞	😞	😟	😊	🙂	😞	Pine wilt & root nematode, European sawfly	
*	50x25	<i>Pinus taeda</i> Loblolly Pine	😞	😟	😟	😊	🙂	✖	Cold, ice and high pH can cause problems	
**	25x15	<i>Pinus thunbergiana</i> Japanese Black Pine	😟	😞	😟	🙂	😟	😟	Salt tolerant, ice damage, pine wilt	
*	30x15	<i>Pinus wallichiana</i> Himalayan Pine	😟	🙂	😟	🙂	😟	✖	Needs more testing	

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SPRUCE TREES

KEY	*** = Well Tested/Observed in Kansas City region	😊 = Super tree for this condition	😞 = Very Poor tree for this condition
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Score	Size	Tree Name	Rating						Comments
			As specimen	As buffer or massing	Culturally adaptable	Heavy soils	Drought tolerant	Lifespan	
***	60x30	<i>Picea abies</i> Norway Spruce	😊	😊	😊	😊	🙂	😊	Tough and proven spruce for KC
***	27x10	<i>Picea abies</i> 'Cupressina' Upright Norway Spruce	😊	😟	😊	😊	🙂	😊	Narrow and fast growing spruce
***	22x15	<i>Picea abies</i> v. pendula Weeping Norway Spruce	😊	😟	😊	😊	🙂	😊	Many specimen application options
**	30x14	<i>Picea breweriana</i> Brewer's Spruce	😞	😟	😞	😟	😞	😟	Tested with many failures
*	30x16	<i>Picea engelmannii</i> Engelmann Spruce	🙂	😞	🙂	😊	😊	✖	Not tolerant of KC heat or humidity
**	40x20	<i>Picea glauca</i> White Spruce	😟	😟	😞	😟	😞	😟	Poor heat tolerance
***	30x18	<i>Picea glauca</i> 'Densata' Black Hills Spruce	🙂	🙂	🙂	🙂	🙂	😟	Slow growing but performs well, dense form
**	18x4	<i>Picea glauca</i> 'Pendula' Weeping White Spruce	🙂	😞	🙂	🙂	😟	😟	Great specimen, good upright leader
**	20x9	<i>Picea mariana</i> 'Columnar' Columnar Black Spruce	😊	😟	🙂	😞	😞	😟	Blue-green foliage, slow growing
**	20x7	<i>Picea mariana</i> 'Wellspire' Columnar Black Spruce	😊	😟	🙂	😞	😞	😟	Upright form, soft needles, green color
**	40x16	<i>Picea omorika</i> Serbian Spruce	🙂	🙂	🙂	😟	😟	😊	Blue-green color, performs well in irrigation
**	25x10	<i>Picea omorika</i> 'Bruns' Bruns Serbian Spruce	🙂	🙂	🙂	😟	😟	😊	More narrow than species
**	22x8	<i>Picea omorika</i> 'Pendula' Weeping Serbian Spruce	😊	😟	🙂	😟	😟	😊	Very attractive weeping specimen
***	25x12	<i>Picea omorika</i> 'Riverside' Upright Serbian Spruce	😊	🙂	🙂	😟	😟	😊	Nice form with green color
*	25x15	<i>Picea orientalis</i> Oriental Spruce	😊	🙂	🙂	🙂	🙂	✖	Tiny needles
**	18x8	<i>Picea orientalis</i> 'Deer Run' Deer Run Spruce	😊	😟	🙂	🙂	🙂	😊	Blue color, slow growing
*	18x9	<i>P. orientalis</i> 'Skylands' Yellow Oriental Spruce	🙂	😟	😟	😟	😟	✖	Yellow needles fade to green, will scorch
***	45x20	<i>Picea pungens</i> Colorado Spruce	🙂	🙂	😟	😞	😟	😊	Not heat or drought tolerant, green needles
***	45x20	<i>Picea pungens</i> v. <i>glauca</i> Colorado Blue Spruce	🙂	🙂	😟	😞	😟	😊	Same as species, but blue color
***	40x18	<i>Picea pungens</i> 'Kosteri' Koster Blue Spruce	😊	😟	🙂	😞	😟	😊	Blue color, not uniform or dense
*	15x8	<i>Picea pungens</i> 'Baby Blue Eyes' Baby Blue Eyes Spruce	😊	🙂	😟	😞	😟	✖	Tidy, small mature size
**	25x14	<i>Picea pungens</i> 'Bakeri' Bakeri Spruce	😊	🙂	😟	😞	😟	😊	Good blue color
***	20x9	<i>Picea pungens</i> 'Blue Totum' Col. Blue Spruce	🙂	😟	😟	😞	😟	😊	Good blue color, snow/ice load is problem
**	20x10	<i>Picea pungens</i> 'Fastigiata' Col. Blue Spruce	🙂	😟	😟	😞	😟	😊	Good blue color, snow/ice load is problem
***	20x15	<i>Picea pungens</i> 'Fat Albert' Fat Albert Blue Spruce	😊	🙂	😟	😞	😟	😊	Excellent blue color and form
***	30x16	<i>Picea pungens</i> 'Hoopsii' Hoopsii Blue Spruce	😊	🙂	😟	😞	😟	😊	Bluest spruce, more open form

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JUNIPER TREES

KEY	*** = Well Tested/Observed in Kansas City region	😊 = Super tree for this condition	😞 = Very Poor tree for this condition
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Score	Size	Tree Name	Rating						Comments
			As specimen	As buffer or massing	Culturally adaptable	Heavy soils	Drought tolerant	Lifespan	
*	20x12	<i>Juniperus chinensis</i> 'Wintergreen' Wintergreen Juniper	😞	😊	🙂	🙂	😊	✖	Dense rich green
**	16x9	<i>Juniperus chinensis</i> 'Blue Point' Blue Point Juniper	🙂	😊	🙂	😊	😊	🙂	Teardrop shape, blue-green color
**	25x14	<i>Juniperus chinensis</i> 'Columnaris Glauca' Upright Blue Juniper	😞	😊	🙂	😊	😊	😞	Narrow, loose habit, silver-grey color
***	16x9	<i>Juniperus chinensis</i> 'Hetzii Columnaris' Hetz Juniper	😞	😊	😊	😊	😊	🙂	Green, heavy attractive cone production
**	13x5	<i>Juniperus chinensis</i> 'Iowa' Iowa Juniper	😞	😊	😊	😊	😊	😞	Green with blue tint, loose form
***	20x13	<i>Juniperus chinensis</i> 'Keteleerii' Keteleerii Juniper	😞	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	Green with loose form, interesting unsheared
***	20x12	<i>Juniperus chinensis</i> 'Perfecta' Perfecta Juniper	😞	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	Natural freshly sheared look
**	18x9	<i>Juniperus chinensis</i> 'Robusta Green' Upright Juniper	😞	😊	🙂	🙂	😊	🙂	Green, tufted form, slightly irregular
***	20x9	<i>Juniperus chinensis</i> 'Spartan' Spartan Juniper	🙂	😊	😊	😊	😊	🙂	Green, dense and narrow
*	20x18	<i>Juniperus rigida</i> Temple Juniper	🙂	🙂	😊	😊	😊	✖	Green, slightly weeping branchlets
**	25x13	<i>J. scopulorum</i> 'Blue Haven' Blue Haven Juniper	😞	😞	😞	😞	😞	😞	Blue, striking color, heavy cone production
***	20x7	<i>Juniperus scopulorum</i> 'Skyrocket' Skyrocket Juniper	😞	😞	😞	😞	🙂	😞	Blue, very narrow, poor performer
***	18x8	<i>Juniperus scopulorum</i> 'Welchii' Welch Juniper	😞	😞	😞	😞	🙂	😞	Silvery blue-green, compact and dense
***	20x10	<i>Juniperus scopulorum</i> 'Wichita Blue' Wichita Blue Juniper	😞	😞	😞	😞	🙂	😞	Brilliant bright blue, poor performer
***	40x25	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i> Eastern Red Cedar	😞	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	Our only native and most durable evergreen
***	30x15	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i> 'Glauca' Silver Eastern Red Cedar	😞	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	Silver hue and very durable
*	15x5	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i> 'Blue Arrow' Blue Arrow Juniper	😞	🙂	😊	😊	😊	✖	More narrow than 'Glauca', not as durable
**	25x14	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i> 'Burkii' Blue Burkii Juniper	😞	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	Steel-blue color, lacks interesting cones
***	25x15	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i> 'Canaertii' Canaert Juniper	🙂	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	Attractive lumpy form, proven durability
**	20x12	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i> 'Cupressifolia' Hillspire Juniper	😞	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	Green, keeps winter color, durable
**	23x10	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i> 'Emerald Sentinel' Emerald Sentinel Juniper	😞	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	Dark green color
*	20x8	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i> 'Prairie Sentinel' Prairie Sentinel Juniper	😞	😊	😊	😊	😊	✖	Grey-green color, slower grower
**	18x5	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i> 'Taylor' Taylor Upright Juniper	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	🙂	Italian cypress look, durable, species color

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ARBORVITAE TREES

Score	Size	Tree Name	Rating						Comments
			As specimen	As buffer or massing	Culturally adaptable	Heavy soils	Drought tolerant	Lifespan	
***	25x15	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i> Eastern Arborvitae	😡	😬	😞	😬	😡	😞	Needs irrigation, snow loads are a problem
**	18x4	<i>T. occ.</i> 'Degroot's Spire' Degroot's Spire Arborvitae	😬	😬	😡	😬	😡	😞	Best cultivar, otherwise same as species, slow
***	16x6	<i>T. occidentalis</i> 'Smaragd' Emerald Green Arborvitae	😡	😞	😡	😬	😡	😡	Overplanted and unloved by experts
**	20x7	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i> 'Techny' Techny Arborvitae	😡	😞	😡	😬	😡	😡	Poor performer, slow growing
***	35x15	<i>Thuja</i> x 'Green Giant' Green Giant Arborvitae	😞	😊	😬	😬	😡	😞	Fast grower, drought problems, deer resistant
**	25x12	<i>Thuja</i> x 'Spring Grove' Spring Grove Arborvitae	😞	😬	😬	😬	😡	😞	Less vigorous than Green Giant, but similar
***	25x15	<i>Thuja orientalis</i> Oriental Arborvitae	😡	😬	😬	😬	😊	😊	Toughest arborvitae for challenging KC

FIR / YEW TREES

Score	Size	Tree Name	Rating						Comments
			As specimen	As buffer or massing	Culturally adaptable	Heavy soils	Drought tolerant	Lifespan	
*	40x18	<i>Abies balsamea</i> Balsam Fir	😡	😡	😡	😡	😡	✖	Poor performance in KC
**	45x25	<i>Abies concolor</i> White Fir	😬	😡	😡	😡	😡	😞	Beautiful, needs excellent drainage, variable
**	25x14	<i>Abies concolor</i> 'Candicans' Candicans Fir	😬	😡	😡	😡	😡	😞	White-blue color very impressive
*	30x16	<i>Abies fraseri</i> Fraser Fir	😡	😞	😡	😡	😡	✖	Very few good trees in KC, many failures
*	30x20	<i>Abies homolepis</i> Nikko Fir	😊	😞	😡	😊	😡	✖	Very few good trees in KC, many failures
*	15x6	<i>Abies koreana</i> Korean Fir	😬	😡	😡	😬	😡	✖	Heat and drought sensitive
*	35x16	<i>Abies nordmanniana</i> Nordman Fir	😬	😞	😞	😬	😬	✖	Very few good trees, but shows promise
**	40x20	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> Douglas Fir	😞	😞	😞	😡	😞	😬	Very few nice older specimens in KC
***	20x14	<i>Taxus cuspidata</i> 'Capitata' Pyramidal Japanese Yew	😬	😞	😬	😡	😞	😞	Great evergreen for shade, needs drainage
***	15x9	<i>Taxus x media</i> 'Hicksii' Hicks Upright Yew	😞	😊	😬	😞	😬	😊	More upright/round form than Cap Yew

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HOLLY / MAGNOLIA TREES (BROADLEAF EVERGREENS ONLY)

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			As specimen	As buffer or massing	Culturally adaptable	Heavy soils	Drought tolerant	Lifespan		
***	20x12	<i>Ilex x attenuata</i> 'Fosteri' Foster's #2 Holly	😊	😊	😊	😟	😟	😟	Needs winter wind protection	
***	20x12	<i>Ilex x attenuata</i> 'Greenleaf' Greenleaf Holly	😊	😊	😟	😟	😟	😟	Chlorosis, needs winter wind protection	
***	8x7	<i>Ilex x 'Blue Maid'</i> Blue Maid Holly	😞	😟	😊	😟	😞	😟	Needs winter wind protection	
**	14x7	<i>Ilex x Centennial Girl'</i> Centennial Girl Holly	😟	😊	😊	😟	😞	😟	Needs winter wind protection	
*	14x6	<i>Ilex x 'Dragon Lady'</i> Dragon Lady Holly	😟	😟	😟	😟	😟	✖	Rare to succeed in KC	
**	6x5	<i>Ilex x 'Honey Maid'</i> Honey Maid Holly	😟	😞	😞	😟	😞	😞	Creamy white leaf margin, often fails	
*	9x5	<i>Ilex x meserveae</i> 'Hackenfee' Castle Spire Holly	😊	😊	😊	😟	😞	✖	Good fruit production, needs male in area	
*	9x5	<i>Ilex x meserveae</i> 'Hackenstar' Castle Wall Holly	😊	😊	😊	😟	😞	✖	Male pollinator for 'Castle Spire'	
*	18x9	<i>Ilex x 'Nellie R. Stevens'</i> Nellie Stevens Holly	😟	😟	😞	😟	😞	✖	Needs shelter, but often killed to ground	
***	35x18	<i>Ilex opaca</i> American Holly	😊	😊	😊	😟	😟	😊	Species is variable, but many old specimens	
*	20x15	<i>Ilex penunculosa</i> Longstock Holly	😞	😞	😞	😊	😞	✖	Not heat or drought tolerant	
*	10x5	<i>Ilex x 'Rutzan'</i> Red Beauty Holly	😊	😊	😊	😟	😟	✖	Tough holly with excellent fruit production	
*	40x20	<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> 'DD Blanchard' Magnolia	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	✖	Large flowers, seems superior to 'Bracken's'	
***	30x20	<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> 'Bracken's Brown' Magnolia	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	No protection needed, heavy snow breakage	
**	35x25	<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> 'Edith Bogue' Magnolia	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😟	More hardy than 'Bracken's'	
**	25x12	<i>M. virginiana</i> 'Jim Wilson' Moonglow Sweetbay Magnolia	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	Holds some foliage thru winter, fragrant	
***	25x14	<i>Magnolia virginiana v. australis</i> Sweetbay Magnolia	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	Tolerates wet sites, needs winter moisture	

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MISC. NEEDED EVERGREENS TREES

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*	30x14	<i>Calocedrus decurrens</i> Incense-Cedar	😊	😞	😞	😊	😊	✖	Does well in SW KS, but not tested in KC
**	30x16	<i>Cedrus atlantica</i> 'Glauca' Blue Atlas Cedar	😊	😞	😊	😞	😊	😞	Nice specimen if winters stay mild
*	30x15	<i>C. deodara</i> 'Karl Fuchs' Blue Himalayan Cedar	😊	😞	😞	😞	😊	✖	Blue fades to grey, cold tolerant
*	25x12	<i>Cedrus deodara</i> 'Electric Blue' Blue Him.Cedar	😊	😞	😞	😞	😊	✖	More dense, less cold tolerant than 'K.Fuchs'
*	30x25	<i>Cedrus libani v. stenocoma</i> Cedar of Lebanon	😊	😞	😞	😞	😊	✖	Not holding up in KC, no thriving old trees
*	18x9	<i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i> Lawson Falsecypress	😊	😞	😞	😊	😞	✖	Interesting horizontal twig structure
**	24x10	<i>Chamaecyparis nootkatensis</i> Weeping Alaska Cedar	😊	😞	😞	😊	😞	😊	Interesting specimen, doing well in KC
**	12x8	<i>Cham. pisifera</i> 'Filifera' Japanese Falsecypress	😊	😞	😊	😊	😞	😊	Internal needles die but can be trimmed
**	15x9	<i>Cham. pisifera</i> 'Boulevard' Bld. Falsecypress	😊	😞	😊	😊	😞	😊	Can look a bit rough with age, but does well
*	35x20	<i>Cryptomeria japonica</i> Japanese Cedar	😞	😞	😞	😞	😊	✖	Very few surviving trees in KC
*	30x14	<i>Cupressus arizonica</i> Arizona Cypress	😞	😞	😞	😞	😊	✖	Seed source/cultivar is important
*	20x7	<i>Cupressus arizonica</i> 'Cook's Peak' Cook's Peak Cypress	😞	😞	😊	😞	😊	✖	Appears to be cold hardy, blue foliage
*	25x10	<i>Cupressus arizonica</i> 'Blue Ice' Blue Ice Cypress	😊	😞	😞	😞	😊	✖	Blue foliage, cold hardiness in question
**	25x10	<i>Sciadopitys verticillata</i> Japanese Umbrella Pine	😊	😞	😞	😞	😞	😞	Very slow, needs winter shade, needs love
*	30x15	<i>Sequoiadendron giganteum</i> Giant Redwood	😞	😞	😞	😞	😞	✖	Not suited for KC's climate
*	30x15	<i>Sequoiadendron giganteum</i> 'Hazel Smith' Giant Redwood	😊	😞	😞	😞	😞	✖	Blue color, hates KC humidity, but can survive
***	45x25	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i> Canadian Hemlock	😞	😞	😞	😞	😞	😞	Needs winter wind protection and good soil

The Tree List: Evergreen Trees For the Kansas City Region (As Rated By Metropolitan Area Experts)
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