



Chamaecyparis obtusa Hinoki Falsecypress¹

Edward F. Gilman and Dennis G. Watson²

INTRODUCTION

This broad, sweeping, conical-shaped evergreen has graceful, flattened, fern-like branchlets which gently droop at branch tips (Fig. 1). Hinoki Falsecypress reaches 50 to 75 feet in height with a spread of 10 to 20 feet, has dark green foliage, and attractive, shredding, reddish-brown bark which peels off in long narrow strips.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Scientific name: *Chamaecyparis obtusa*

Pronunciation: kam-eh-SIP-uh-riss ob-TOO-suh

Common name(s): Hinoki Falsecypress

Family: Cupressaceae

USDA hardiness zones: 5 through 8A (Fig. 2)

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: Bonsai; screen

Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the tree

DESCRIPTION

Height: 40 to 75 feet

Spread: 10 to 20 feet

Crown uniformity: symmetrical canopy with a regular (or smooth) outline, and individuals have more or less identical crown forms

Crown shape: pyramidal

Crown density: dense

Growth rate: medium

Texture: fine

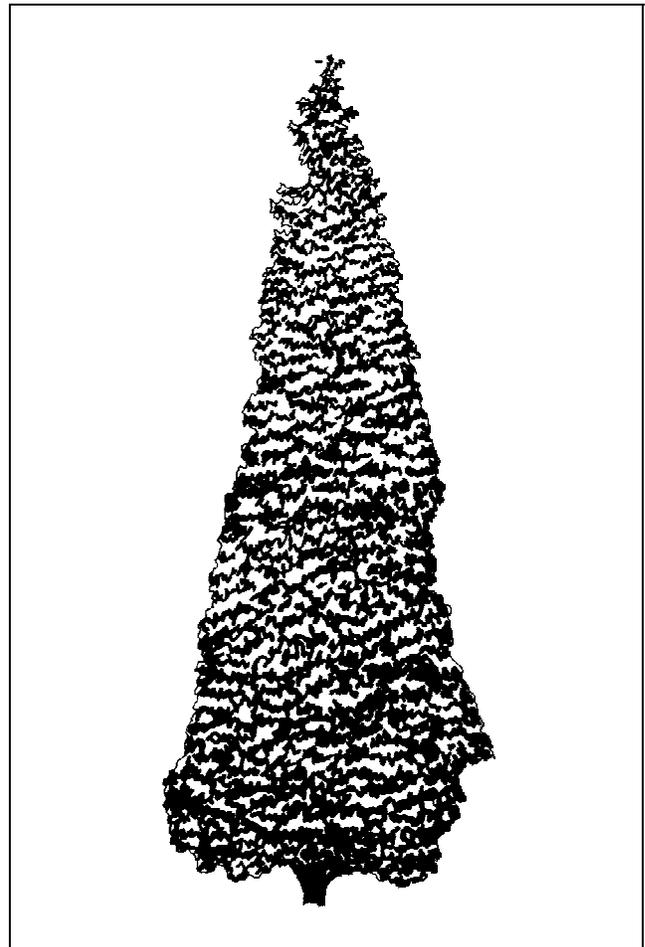


Figure 1. Mature Hinoki Falsecypress.

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: opposite/subopposite

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: entire

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2. Edward F. Gilman, associate professor, Environmental Horticulture Department; Dennis G. Watson, associate professor, Agricultural Engineering Department, Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville FL 32611.

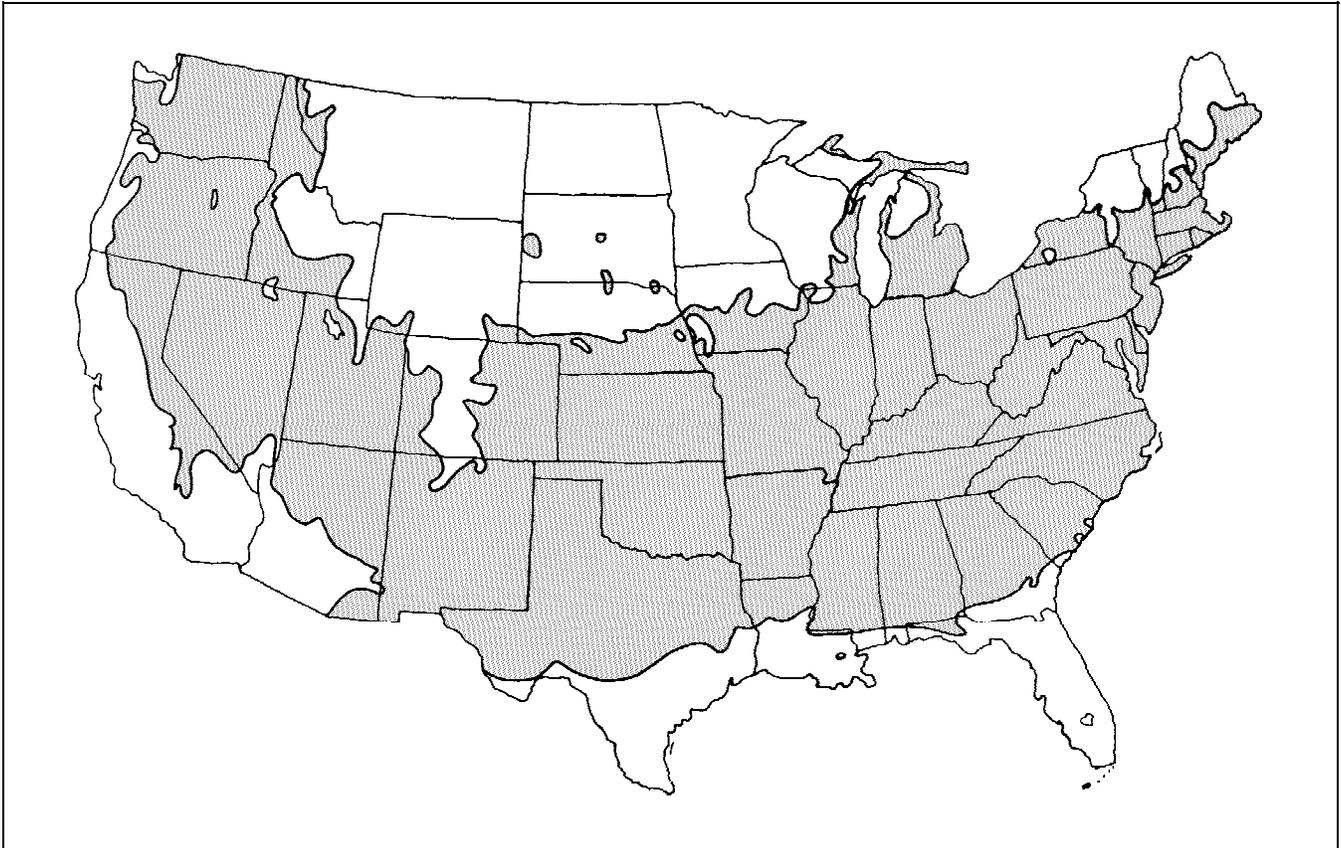


Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Leaf shape: scale-like

Leaf venation: none, or difficult to see

Leaf type and persistence: evergreen

Leaf blade length: less than 2 inches

Leaf color: green

Fall color: no fall color change

Fall characteristic: not showy

Flower

Flower color: yellow

Flower characteristics: inconspicuous and not showy

Fruit

Fruit shape: round

Fruit length: < .5 inch

Fruit covering: dry or hard

Fruit color: brown

Fruit characteristics: does not attract wildlife; inconspicuous and not showy; no significant litter problem

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: droop as the tree grows, and will require pruning for vehicular or pedestrian clearance beneath the canopy; showy trunk; should be grown with a single leader; no thorns

Pruning requirement: needs little pruning to develop a strong structure

Breakage: resistant

Current year twig color: brown; green

Current year twig thickness: thin

Culture

Light requirement: tree grows in full sun

Soil tolerances: clay; loam; sand; acidic; well-drained

Drought tolerance: moderate

Other

Roots: surface roots are usually not a problem

Winter interest: no special winter interest

Outstanding tree: not particularly outstanding

Invasive potential: little, if any, potential at this time

Verticillium wilt susceptibility: not known to be susceptible

Pest resistance: long-term health usually not affected by pests

USE AND MANAGEMENT

Hinoki Falsecypress should be grown in full sun on moist, well-drained soil, in areas of moderate to high humidity, and preferably where the trees can be protected from harsh winds. It is fairly free of pests and diseases.

Propagation is by cuttings.

There are many cultivars, some quite dwarf. Other cultivars have excellent foliage coloration or unusual growth habit. Cultivars include: 'Aurea' - golden foliage; 'Caespitosa' - rare, miniature, about six inches tall; 'Compacta' - dwarf, about three feet tall, dense, conical; 'Coralliformis' - branchlets reddish and contorted; 'Crippsii' - broad pyramid with spreading branches and golden foliage; 'Erecta' - columnar habit; 'Ericoides' - low, blue-gray foliage, 'Filicoides' - fern-like; 'Gracilis' - compact growth habit, tips of branchlets pendulous; 'Kosteri' - dwarf, three to four feet tall, branch tips curved; 'Mariesii' - dwarf, foliage variegated with yellowish white; 'Nana' - very dwarf, height and spread of two feet; 'Pygmaea' - dwarf, two feet tall, wider than tall; 'Stoneham' - slow, dwarf, tiered branching; 'Tetragona' - slow, dwarf, erect.

Pests

Juniper scale can be controlled by applying pesticides when the crawlers are active.

The bagworm webs dead foliage and other debris together to make a nest. The covering makes the insect difficult to control. The nests can be picked off by hand.

Diseases

Blight can be a problem on young plants in nurseries or old plants in landscape situations. In young plants, branch tips turn brown and die back until the whole branch or young tree is killed. Trees over five years old are less susceptible. When older trees in landscapes are affected by tip blight, entire trees are seldom killed.

Tip blight can infect trees during wet weather. The disease causes sooty pustules on the leaves, bark and cones.

Scorch may look like a disease but is caused by excessive direct sun, freezing stress, drought or mites. Freezing stress can be prevented by shading small plants in winter.