



Chamaecyparis obtusa 'Crippsii' 'Cripps Golden' Hinoki Falsecypress¹

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INTRODUCTION

This broad, sweeping, conical-shaped evergreen has graceful, flattened, fern-like branchlets which gently droop at branch tips (Fig. 1). Beautiful, shiny, new, golden/yellow foliage matures to green throughout the interior of the tree but some random yellow highlights are still obvious in clustered sprays at branch ends, giving the trees a wonderful two-toned effect. Cripp's Golden Hinoki Falsecypress reaches 50 to 75 feet in height with a spread of 20 to 30 feet, and has attractive, shredding, reddish-brown bark which peels off in long narrow strips.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Scientific name: *Chamaecyparis obtusa* 'Crippsii'

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

Common name(s): 'Cripps Golden' Hinoki Falsecypress

Family: Cupressaceae

USDA hardiness zones: 4 through 8A (Fig. 2)

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: Bonsai; screen; specimen

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

DESCRIPTION

Height: 50 to 75 feet

Spread: 20 to 30 feet

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

Crown shape: spreading; pyramidal



Figure 1. Middle-aged 'Cripps Golden' Hinoki Falsecypress.

Crown density: dense

Growth rate: medium

Texture: fine

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: opposite/subopposite

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: entire

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: yellow

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 part shade/part sun; 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: no pests are normally seen on the tree

USE AND MANAGEMENT

Cripp's Golden Hinoki Falsecypress should be grown in part sun in the south on moist, well-drained soil, in areas of moderate to high humidity, and preferably where the trees can be protected from harsh winds. Somewhat picky and probably more of a novelty than a staple landscape plant. Coloration is not as pronounced when grown in partial shade.

Propagation is by cuttings.

Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern.