



## *x Cupressocyparis leylandii* 'Naylor's Blue' 'Naylor's Blue' Leyland Cypress<sup>1</sup>

Edward F. Gilman and Dennis G. Watson<sup>2</sup>

### INTRODUCTION

A moderate to rapidly-growing evergreen when young, 'Naylor's Blue' Leyland Cypress will easily grow three feet per year, even on poor soils, and will ultimately attain a majestic height of 50 feet or more in the west, perhaps somewhat shorter in the east (Fig. 1). Leyland Cypress forms a dense, oval or pyramidal outline when left unpruned, but the graceful, pendulous branches will tolerate severe trimming to create a formal hedge, screen or windbreak. The fine, feathery glaucous blue-green foliage is composed of soft, pointed leaves on flattened branchlets and are dark blue-green when mature. Leyland Cypress quickly outgrows its space in small landscapes and is too big for most residential landscapes unless it will be regularly trimmed. Although it can be sheared into a tall screen on small lots, Leyland Cypress should probably be saved for large-scale landscapes where it can be allowed to develop into its natural shape.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

**Scientific name:** *x Cupressocyparis leylandii*  
'Naylor's Blue'

**Pronunciation:** x koo-press-so-SIP-air-iss  
lay-LAN-dee-eye

**Common name(s):** 'Naylor's Blue' Leyland Cypress

**Family:** *Cupressaceae*

**USDA hardiness zones:** 6 through 10A (Fig. 2)

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Uses:** hedge; recommended for buffer strips around parking lots or for median strip plantings in the highway; screen; specimen; Christmas tree

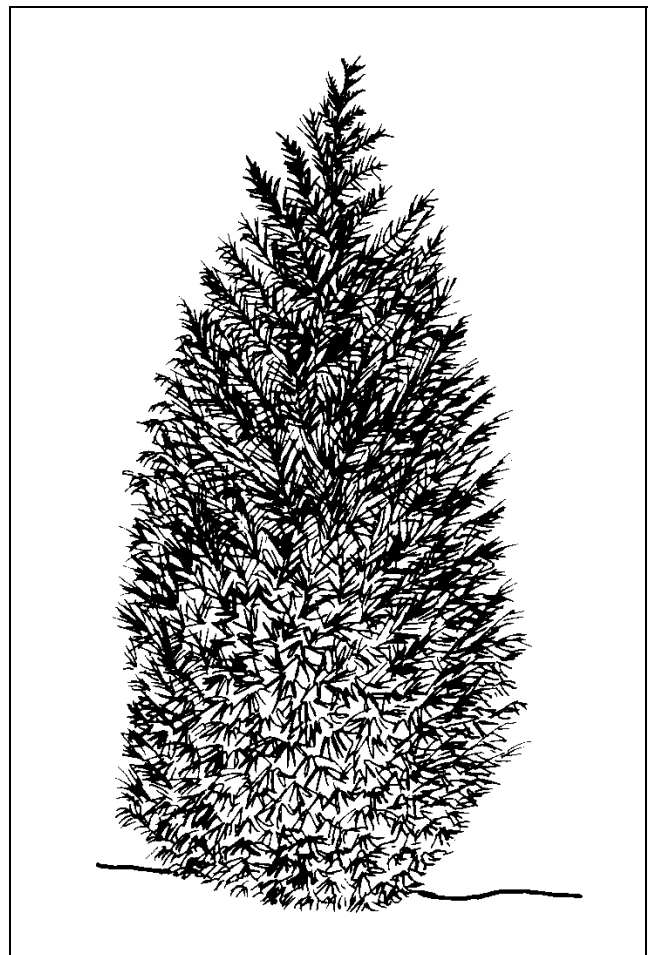


Figure 1. Middle-aged 'Naylor's Blue' Leyland Cypress.

**Availability:** grown in small quantities by a small number of nurseries

1. This document is adapted from Fact Sheet ST-673, a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Publication date: October 1994.
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.

## DESCRIPTION

**Height:** 40 to 50 feet  
**Spread:** 15 to 25 feet  
**Crown uniformity:** symmetrical canopy with a regular (or smooth) outline, and individuals have more or less identical crown forms  
**Crown shape:** columnar; oval; pyramidal  
**Crown density:** dense  
**Growth rate:** fast  
**Texture:** fine

## 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:** blue or blue-green  
**Fall color:** no fall color change  
**Fall characteristic:** not showy

## Flower

**Flower color:** no flowers  
**Flower characteristics:** no flowers

## 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:** grow mostly upright and will not droop; not particularly showy; 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:** 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; alkaline; well-drained

**Drought tolerance:** high

**Aerosol salt tolerance:** moderate

**Soil salt tolerance:** moderate

## Other

**Roots:** surface roots are usually not a problem

**Winter interest:** no special winter interest

**Outstanding tree:** tree has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more

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

**Verticillium wilt susceptibility:** not known to be susceptible

**Pest resistance:** very sensitive to one or more pests or diseases which can affect tree health or aesthetics

## Diseases

A canker affects the tree following drought; a foliage fungus occasionally infects foliage. This plant is not recommended for planting in California due to the severity of this canker disease. Perhaps the disease will stay in the western United States.

## USE AND MANAGEMENT

Leyland Cypress grows in full sun on a wide range of soils, from acid to alkaline, but looks its best on moderately fertile soil with sufficient moisture. It is surprisingly tolerant of severe pruning, recovering nicely from even severe topping (although this is not recommended), even when half the top is removed. It grows well in clay soil and tolerates poor drainage for a short period of time. It also is very tolerant of salt spray.

Some other cultivars include: 'Castlewellan', a more compact form with gold-tipped leaves, excellent for hedges in cool climates; 'Leighton Green', dense branching with dark green foliage, columnar form; 'Haggerston Gray', loose branches, columnar-pyramidal, upturned at ends, sage-green color; 'Silver Dust', wide-spreading form with blue-green foliage marked with white variegations.

Propagation is by cuttings from side growths.

## Pests

Bagworm can defoliate a tree in a week or two, and can be quite serious.