



# *Chamaecyparis obtusa* Hinoki Falsecypress<sup>1</sup>

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

## 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

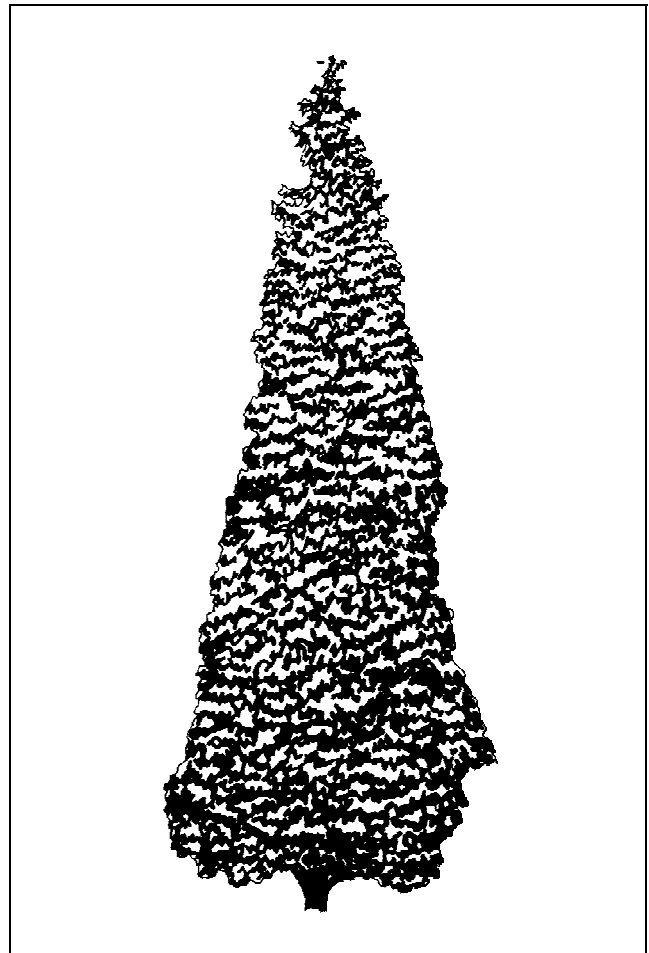


Figure 1. Mature Hinoki Falsecypress.

## Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** opposite/subopposite

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** entire

1. This document is adapted from Fact Sheet ST-156, a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Publication date: November 1993.
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.

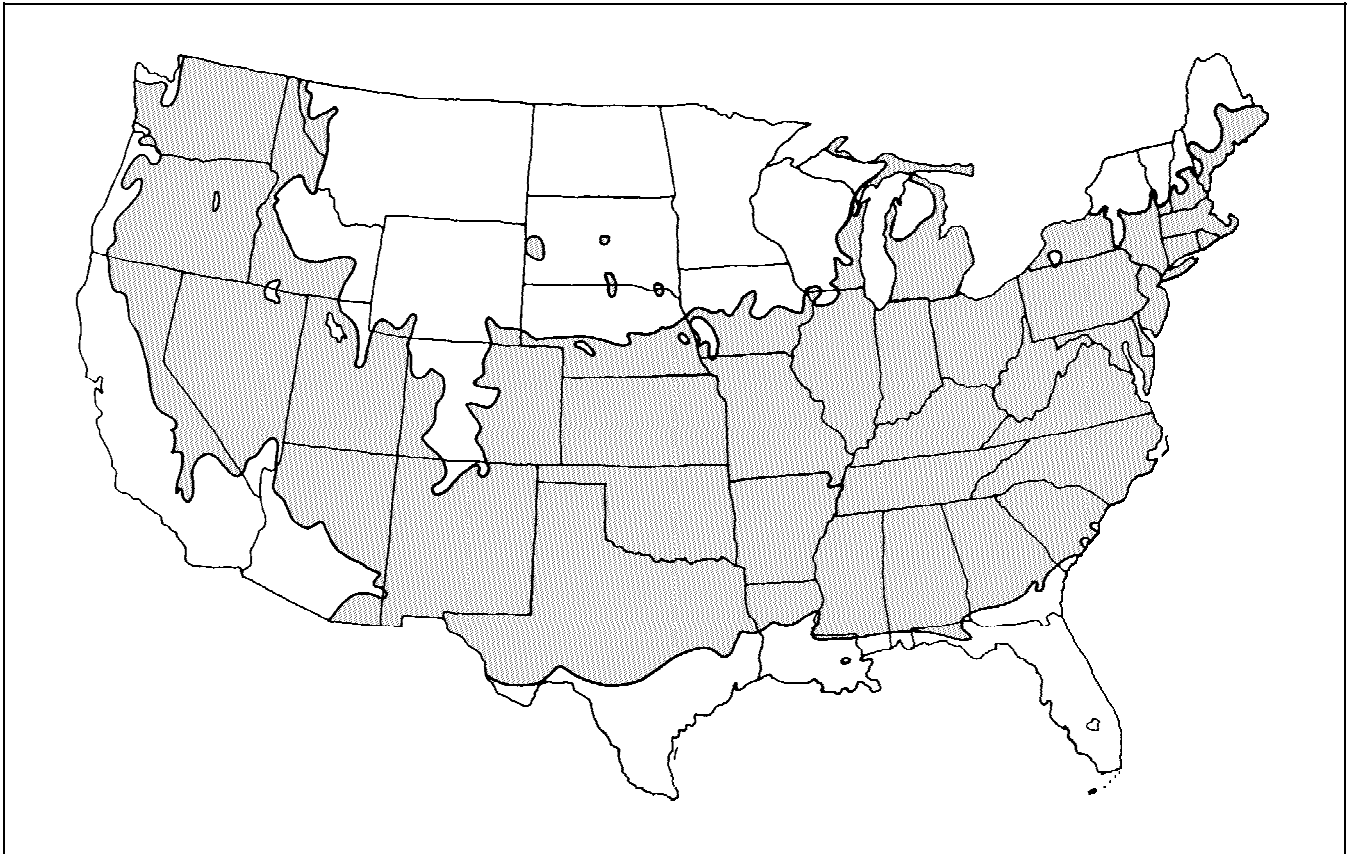


Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**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.