

## Hinoki False Cypress

*Chamaecyparis*  
*Cuprussaceae*  
*Chamaecyparis obtuse*



**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** The pure species is a tree that can grow to 75' tall but what one usually sees in landscaping are the many more shrub like cultivars with curled and cup shaped branching patterns. These latter plants are great for rock gardens or small yards where there is a desire to create a landscape using slow growing and diminutive plants. Like all members of the Cuprussaceae these plants have scale like leaves that overlap and flattened complex branching systems with branchlets that give a fern like appearance. These are terrific plants for sun to partial shade and add an interesting form and dark green look all year around.

**HABIT AND SIZE:** The species is a softly pyramidal tree with spreading branches and drooping frond-like branches that can grow as high as 75 ' high and 10-15' wide. The commonly used cultivars are small trees to very small shrubs in which the branching systems seem to cup and swirl around the a central axis.

**LANDSCAPE VALUE:** While the tree form of this species is rarely used in garden design, the shrub and mini-shrub forms are extremely common in gardens where they are an asset because of their unusual forms, shade tolerance, controllable size and evergreen nature.

**LEAVES:** Scale-like, opposite in pairs, densely covering the branchlets, in the juvenile state they are needle-shaped. They are closely appressed to the branchelet with the lateral leaf much longer than the facial. They do not have glands, are rounded and bright shining green on top with whitish lines beneath.

**FLOWERS:** Male and female reproductive structures are on separate branches in a terminal location. The staminate structure is oblong, red or yellow, with numerous pairs of stamens alternating at right angles (decussate). The pistillate structure is a globose arrangement of scales subtending 2 (rarely 5) erect ovules.

**FRUIT:** Round orange-brown, erect cones with 8-10 peltate scales (shield shaped, petiole attached inside margin) containing winged seeds (2-5 per scale).

**BUD:** Not conspicuous.

**DISEASES AND INSECTS:** Generally disease free.

**HARDINESS AND RANGE:** Zones 4-8. Japan, Taiwan

**CULTIVARS:** Numerous. 'Crippsii', 'Filicoides', 'Nana' and 'Nana Gracilis' are notable.