Chamaecyparis obtusa - Hinoki Falsecypress (Cupressaceae)

Chamaecyparis obtusa is one of the most widely grown Falsecypress in the Midwestern U.S. Hinoki Falsecypress is a variable evergreen available in a range of foliage types and colors. It is more attractive as a young plant than as an older tree. It can be used in a variety of landscape situations if the cultivar is carefully selected.

FEATURES

Form
-usually a medium- to large-sized, narrow-leaved evergreen shrub
-typically 10-15' tall in Ohio
-the species form can be a 120' tall tree in its native habitat (Japan)
-broad pyramidal form for the species, but cultivars can be conical/irregular, upright conical, or rounded
-medium to slow growth rate (up to 12” per year)

Culture
-prefers full sun to partial sun
-does best in moist, well-drained soils that are neutral to slightly acidic
-grows best in moist, cool climates
-few disease or pest problems affect this plant
-commonly available in containers or B&B

Foliage
-adpressed needles
-deep green above, whitish below
-sometimes ridged, blunt
-fan-like arrangement

Flowers
-ornamentally inconspicuous

Fruits
-ornamentally inconspicuous cones

Twigs
-thin, horizontal branches
-reddish brown exfoliating bark at maturity

Trunk
-not applicable

Habitat
-Zones 4 to 8
-Native to Japan

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Function
-focal point, specimen, entranceway, or foundation shrub
-good for a Japanese garden

Texture
-medium texture
-thick density

Assets
-deep, dark green foliage in selected cultivars
-variable growth habits for different cultivars

Liabilities
-does not tolerate air pollution
-does not tolerate wet sites
-sun scorch can be a problem on cultivars with colored foliage

SELECTIONS

Alternates
-foliage color variant shrubs that are "evergreen" (see Chamaecyparis pisifera)

Cultivars – Variants – Related species
There are many cultivars, some quite dwarf (this list is partial; described by Klyn Nursery, Perry, OH):

-‘Aurea’ - Upright plant with long, bright yellow open fans. Shaded foliage is green.
-‘Coralliformis’ (‘Torulosa’)- A broad, upright plant with twisted, threadlike foliage.
-’Crippsii’ - An upright, small tree with yellow foliage.
-’Ericoides’ - The young foliage is feathery on plants slightly taller than wide.
-’Fernspray Gold’ - Bright yellow, fern-like foliage.
-’Filicoides’ - A pyramidal plant with twisted, orange-stemmed branches and fern-like foliage.
-’Gracilis’ - A pyramidal plant with pendulous branches reaching a height of 9’ and a spread of 5’.
-’Kosteri’ - A dense plant that becomes an irregular pyramid with age.
-’Mariesii’ - An irregular, rounded plant, the foliage is variegated with white.
-’Meroke’ - A compact, upright selection with yellow.
-’Nana’ - Round when young but more irregular with age.
-’Nana Gracilis’ - Rounded when young more upright with age.
-’Pygmaea’ - A flat-topped plant with bronzed foliage during the growing season and copper-colored in winter.
-’Repens’ - A spreading form mounding age.
-’Snowkist’ - Dark green marked with white.
-’Split Rock’ - Blue young foliage contrasts with mature green foliage.
-’Verdoni’ - Yellow foliage that does not burn in full sun.