

# *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

## USAGE

### 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

### Habitat

- Zones 4 to 8
- Native to Japan

## 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.